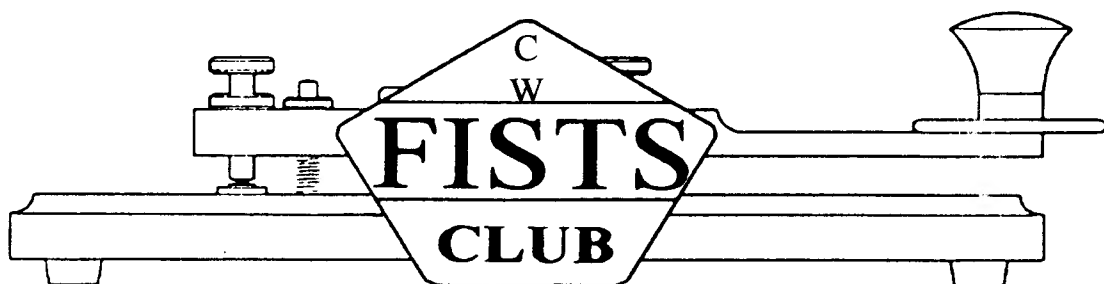


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

The Key Note

Slow Traffic Net:
Tuesday and Thurs-
day 9PM EST on
3.682

Slow RagChewing
Group: Wednesday at
9PM EST on 3.720

Volunteer Net Con-
trols needed to run
the Century Net on
Sunday afternoon
on 14.058 MHz

Saturday QSO Groups:
2000Z on 14.058 MHz
and 7.058 MHz at 2300Z.
Sunday Slow Speed
Chat: 21.158 MHz at
1700Z

30 Meter calling fre-
quency: 10.118

Please keep watch on
the Novice subbands and
frequencies ending in
.x58 -- but PLEASE
spread out. There have
been over 7000 FISTS
numbers issued now, if
we all try and chat on
these frequencies all
anyone will get is a lot of
QRM. Please be
courteous of nets and
QSOs in progress.

Courtesy At All Times.

If you move please send your
address change to WZ8C. It
costs FISTS 60 cents for each
undelivered Keynote due to
address changes. This really
adds up.

Hello FISTS! A lot has
been happening, both
at my QTH and with
FISTS. Thanks for your
patience, waiting for
the Keynote and any
delays in processing
your mail.

Of the most interest to
you will probably be the

The North American Memo Version by Nancy Kott WZ8C USA and DX member news and activities

transitions taking
place with FISTS.
These transitions are
the reason this Issue
is so late, and why I
combined #6 and #7.
I was waiting until all
the kinks were worked
out so the information
I printed would be
accurate. More time
than I would have
liked passed by in the
duration. I don't want
you to miss any of the
DX news, so I have in-
cluded all the Key-
notes from England
and the News from NZ
in this double issue.

First, Bob Lowe, the
DX Awards manager,
has resigned. There
was a lot of discussion
about what to do, and
Dennis, K6DF, our
North American FISTS
Award Manager has
stepped up and
(without TOO much
arm twisting) has ac-
cepted the responsi-
bility of being our
WOFAM (World FISTS
Award Manager).

This makes sense,
since the bulk of the
awards are issued to
the USA contingent,
and it has the added
convenience of appli-
cants not having to
send cash overseas to
cover the costs of the
awards and postage.

Dennis will continue to
make the high quality
awards for the Silver,
Diamond, etc, you are
used to getting from
Bob. These are expen-
sive to make, with me-
tallic overlays, but
members in good stand-
ing (as in SUBS PAID,
UP TO DATE) will get
the awards free of
charge, at least for now.
We will reevaluate the
situation at the end of
the year and see if it's
feasible to continue giv-
ing them away for free,
but for now don't send
Dennis any money for
the awards. If you'd like
to include some stamps
to defray postage, that
is always appreciated.

Not only is FISTS sav-
ing you money in your
wallpaper chasing
quest, it will improve
the turnaround time be-
cause you will be send-
ing your logs to Califor-
nia, not England. I'd like
to thank Bob for his
years of service to
FISTS. He did a splen-
did job with the awards
program in England.

More big news is that
the Code Buddy pro-
gram is back in full
swing! A big thanks to
Maggie WP2T for giving
it a try, but coordinat-
ing it was too much for
her to handle at this

time due to health
problems.

I took advantage of
Terry Lohrey's,
KG4EMM, kind offer of
assistance and asked
him if he would con-
sider taking over as
Code Buddy Coordina-
tor. This took a LITTLE
more arm twisting, but
he agreed to give it a
try. If you have sent in
a code buddy applica-
tion, you may want to
drop Terry a line to be
sure he has it. They've
been transferred a lot
over the last six
months or so, and it
wouldn't hurt to touch
bases with him. John,
W9EM, will be helping
Terry with the Code
Buddy setup.

I'm sure you will give
your thanks and full co-
operation to Bob, Den-
nis, Maggie., John and
Terry as we make
these transitions.

You will notice two
more photopages in
this issue, thanks Ken
W8ROG. We will have
one more and a
photopage roster in the
next issue. Send in
YOUR photo!!

Now, without further
ado, on with your Key-
note....73 88 33 (pick
your choice, hi hi)
Nancy WZ8C

HOW DO I...?

...JOIN? Membership is open to everyone interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions are \$15.00/year. Under 18, \$10/year. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge- only one newsletter will be mailed per household. to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440

...RENEW? Send \$15/year (\$10/year for under 18) to FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047. Your renewal date is on your mailing label — please look at it!!

...SEND APP OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND? For a FISTS brochure, send an email to Joe Pardue, at <w5os@arrl.net> with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are also on the FISTS Webpage.

... ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES? Irene Kott, WO8E, 44609 N.Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038 has gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50; "I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50; Blue enamel /gold metal clasp-back logo pins \$2.50; Cloth patches 3" octagon shaped \$1.50; FISTS coffee mugs \$7.50; **FISTS Club T-Shirts M and L only**, \$9.00. Rubber stamps with FISTS logo for use with an ink pad (not included) for \$5.00. Please make checks out to FISTS, these prices *DO* include Priority postage.

... GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST? Send a SASE with \$2.00 to cover printing costs to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are also available on the FISTS Web page.

...Join the FISTS On-Line Email List? For periodic Email updates on FISTS activities and information, send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Brian LaFontaine, W8BL, at his Email address: blafont@tir.com

...GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO? Stan Reas, K4UK, runs the Buro. Send SASEs and FISTS member cards only (DX and NA) to him at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121.

...SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS? DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ; he'll send them a DX application.

...APPLY FOR An OPERATING AWARD? To apply for ALL AWARDS send a list of contacts (call, FISTS#, qth, date, band and power) to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, at 4658 Capitan Drive, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. *Don't submit QSLs.* There is no charge to FISTS members for the awards, but SASEs are appreciated. Dennis handles ALL AWARDS now, do not send logs to England.

... VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY? Write to Terry Lohrey, 115 Meadowview Dr, Taylorsville KY 40071 or email <tllohrey@kih.net>. We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page.

...GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES? Send a snapshot of yourself to Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

...GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION to give at a local club meeting? It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016. email: kk5na@quadj.com

...FIND THE WEB PAGE? <http://www.FISTS.org>

...SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE? Contact Bill KK4KF at <KK4KF@LizardCop.com>

...ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS? For pricing info send SASE to WX9X at 1608 E. Lincolnway, Suite H - Valparaiso, IN 46383. A scan of the QSL card is on our FISTS Web page.

...ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE? Our club badge is blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society in white. \$8.20 postpaid from The Signman of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808. A non-engraved, laminated club badge is available from Bruce Eichmann, W2BE, 204 E. Lake Blvd., Medford, NJ 08055. Cost is \$4.75, NJ residents \$5.00 because of tax.

...IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEWFRIENDS? Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

The Keynote, official publication of FISTS CW Club, is published approximately 10 times a year by Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440. WZ8C reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity, suitability and space limitations.. Comments not attributed to another are written by WZ8C. **Articles from the Keynote may be re-printed if credit is given to the original author.**

Welcome to the New FISTS

#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor	#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
8190	W8VIJ	GREG	MI	WB2FXK	8235	KC7PM	TED	UT	WZ8C
8191	KB8GSA	CHRIS	OH	KB8KIK	8236	KB9YPC	STEVE	IL	N9BOR
8192	WB2UDC	BOB	NJ		8237	AB8EL	DON	OH	
8193	KD7ISE	PATRICK	AZ		8238	W9ZT	BRAD	WI	
8194	AA7YJ	BILL	WA	W6AEA	8239	WB9OJE	JAMES	WI	
8195	K5ZU	JOHN	AR	Webpage	8240	WB9UNG	TOM	IN	
8196	KK6AW	KELSEY	CA	Webpage	8241	VA3SB	SERGE	ONT	
8197	NY2PO	PATRICK	NY	Webpage	8242	W3BG	JIM	PA	
8198	W4WTA	ACE	GA	Webpage	8243	WA3FIY	LEE	PA	
8199	W7TOM	BOB	WA	WA9PWP	8244	W8AJS	ART	OH	
8200	W8NCK	Sandusky Valley	OH	KB8KIK	8245	K1TWF	MIKE	MA	
8201	K7LDB	LEE	WA	Webpage	8246	N9MVO	ROB	IL	
8202	N7ORS	RICK	WA	Webpage	8247	KD9CZ	RICH	IL	
8203	WA1ZCB	ED	MA	Webpage	8248	KB8ZWK	MARIAN	MI	KB8YZA
8204	KD7EUL	JIM	WA		8249	W2CQ	BILL	FL	N4GA
8205	W7MN	WALTER	OR	K7ZPE	8250	W2MO	Madison-Oneida	NY	AB2AU
8206	KA6NZB	SLATS	CA	Webpage	8251	WN8FTC	PAUL	OH	
8207	WB2BHC	JAY	NJ		8252	W4PC	RICH	AL	
8208	KC5BHF	JIM	TX	AF5Z	8253	AA1NV	NOMAR	NY	
8209	KZ7P	RON	OH		8254	WA1S	ANN	NH	N1SG
8210	W5PNI	MIKE	OK		8255	K3UFG	DAN	CT	WZ8C
8211	VE6NAP	GERRY	AB		8256	WF1S	JACK	RI	WB8NMK
8212	W9MY	HANK	NC		8257	AC7NK	KARL	WY	
8213	K4AWI	JERRY	KY		8258	N9TMU	CLAY	IL	
8214	KB9TZH	PAUL	IN	KA9I	8259	NM0EJ	MIKE	MN	
8215	WA4OKE	EARL	TN		8260	AA1UY	ROB	MA	W4BX
8216	KM4P	BILL	FL	WB2FXK	8261	WB8BSZ	JACK	MI	W5OS
8217	W8CRH	STEVE	MI	WZ8C	8262	KG4MTN	MICHAEL	TN	KE4HBE
8218	W5WP	DAVE	TX		8263	KA0TUP	HENRY	MO	KA0VZZ
8219	W2LO	MIKE	NY		8264	N0OA	JIM	MN	
8220	N7CFO	LYNN	WA	WZ8C	8265	KA8WQL	ROBERT	OH	WB2FXK
8221	WA4TIL	MANSON	NC	KT4OM	8266	KB8YKA	CHERYL	OH	WB2FXK
8222	AB8GB	PHIL	OH		8267	WB2DNG	BOB	NY	WZ8C
8223	W9FAM	VERN	IN		8268	K0BGL	DALE	CA	
8224	NZ3O	BYRON	PA		8269	KD7KQA	SCOTT	WA	Webpage
8225	W1XRA	ROB	MA		8270	KB3DVC	ED	MD	Webpage
8226	WQ8Q	RICK	OH		8271	KC0JRZ	JUDSON	CO	N3ZOC
8227	K8UT	LARRY	MI		8272	N2QPJ	CARL	NJ	
8228	KY4A	GREG	KY	N4GD	8273	KB7ORK	SPUD	OR	WB2FXK
8229	W3IRZ	MIKE	GA		8274	W1GRS	JEFF	CA	Webpage
8230	KG6ECQ	JOE	CA	K6EY	8275	KC0IFL	RON	MO	Webpage
8231	K4WXJ	DAVID	OH		8276	AB7TB	HARRY	WA	N0DJD
8232	N8IK	IAN	VA		8277	K4JPF	PAT	FL	WB2FXK
8233	K7NM	LEE	UT		8278	WV2I	BERT	GA	KF2G
8234	KM1G	RICK	MA		8279	K0PQ	STEVE	CO	Webpage
					8280	WA4CIT	RANDY	NC	Webpage
					8281	W5CN	MARC	TX	WB8NMK

#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor	#	Call	Name	State	Sponsor
8282	VE4QP	RON	MB	WZ8C	8429	W4BJW	BILL	FL	K4UG
8283	KR4NQ	RANDY	GA	KG4FXG	8430	KK4HR	RAY	VA	K4UK
8284	AA3WF	MYCHAE	PA	AC7AC	8431	NN6X	PAUL	CA	
8285	K9GHD	SAM	IL	WA4KQL	8432	KA5SNG	SAM	TX	KA7JSJ
8286	K5DKK	JOHN	TX	WB2FXK	8433	W4EDB	CARLOS	FL	KC0CCR
8287	WA0KNP	RAY	MN	Webpage	8434	W7HOP	W. REID	NV	K7ZPE
8288	KE1KF	STEVE	MA		8435	NN1I	IGOR	OH	
8289	KC8NSM	MIKE	MI	Webpage	8436	K1TCI	ART	NH	
8290	KC0KKN	STEVE	CO		8437	KD9B	DENNIS	KY	
8291	W4CWA	FRANK	NC	Webpage	8438	KG4NIH	GAYLON	VA	
8292	K1ED	GLENN	CA	Webpage	8439	N9TNX	Gail	IL	KA9DVS
8293	KC8PSA	KEITH	OH		8440	K4KSR	BILL	VA	
8294	KB0LUR	PAUL	CO	Webpage	8441	K4JMF	JORGE	GA	
8295	K6JHR	CAP	CA	Webpage	8442	KC0GTC	JOHN	MO	
8296	N3AXB	JOHN	VA	K4UK	8443	KC2HMM	ALEX	NY	W4BX
8297	KC0KDU	GARY	IA	KA7JSJ	8444	KB4DF	DAN	FL	
8298	N6VTU	AL	CA	Webpage	8445	W5MRQ	MEREITH	TX	
8299	KE4CCJ	TONY	TN	Webpage	8446	W0DYD	GARY	MN	KB0PIC
8400	WA1USA	Pawtuxet Valley	RI	WA1GCT	8447	K3LS	LARRY	PA	K0RDS
8401	AB9BZ	DAVE	IL	K9GBD	8448	KB3EDU	DAVE	PA	WB2FXK
8402	KA3DDQ	MIKE	PA	KC0GXX	8449	KD5OSI	DENISE	LA	WD5HFI
8403	NB0W	SCOTT	NE	WB2FXK	8450	saved for a club			
8404	W6YTB	CHARLES	CA		8451	N4NHK	ARCHIE	OH	N4VSD
8405	N0EVH	JOHN	MO	W6VIF	8452	KB8DRQ	DAVE	OH	K4IA
8406	WC5A	BILL	TX	Webpage	8453	K7YB	BOB	WA	
8407	NE0X	RON	MO	Webpage	8454	KG4IQF	LARRY	GA	
8408	KD6LME	GREGG	CA	K7ZPE	8455	KB7PSG	JESSIE	WA	N6RNP
8409	K9FOH	BOB	IN	KF9VA	8456	AA9XJ	BOB	IN	KB9NDF
8410	KC0FNS	MARK	CO	AB0JB	8457	KF4DVB	DAN	FL	KB8X
8411	K5AKW	DALE	TX		8458	KB2NTO	ED	NY	
8412	K5DXV	ED	OR	W7AAV	8459	KC2EIU	WARREN	NJ	
8413	KB2PVI	JOHN	NY	K4PTU	8460	KD3EM	DAVE	PA	
8414	WE3U	MIKE	PA		Call Changes				
8415	KI6ZV	TERRY	CA		7236, Lex, KS4YL is now WY0MN				
8416	N4UW	LUTHER	TN		7413, Rick, WB6FLD, is now N5UZ				
8417	K2RMC	KWAME	NJ		7997, Paul, KG6ABR is now AB6R				
8418	KB3APR	ANDREW	NY	WB2FXK	8130, Chuck, KG6FOD, is now AK6DV				
8419	KD5NUI	FLORIAN	TX	W5JLP	8031, Dave, KC2GZV, is now N2HTA				
8420	KG6GXS	RICH	CA		7370, David, KE4WXS, is now WF4D				
8421	N4OKG	AL	AL		7929 Andy, KD5LZQ, is now W5VCJ				
8422	W7AV	RICK	WA		1019, Gerald, N4GD, is K5UNW again				
8423	KA7VRT	RON	WA		Congratulations!				
8424	NM1K	RUSTY	CT		Congrats to Murray VE3JMY, on the birth of his				
8425	KD5OPP	DAVID	MS		first granchild, Jane. Murray says she's a sweet-				
8426	VE7IOQ	BOB	BC	N6RNP	heart and will be learning Morse before too long!				
8427	K2LAZ	LAZ	NY						
8428	W9FFU	GLENN	WA	K7ZPE					

Suggestions

I'm near 7.058 mobile weekday mornings about 6:45-7:30am & eves abt 4:45-5:30pm CDT/CST. I often QSO with FISTS. Any chance we can do informal drive-time HF QSO party? Maybe agree on some band/frequencies & if it works great. I can do 80-10 mobile. Tnx Mike/N9JIY/1282

How about it, anyone interested in a drive time QSO Party? Let me know and we'll put it in the Keynote and see if it flies! - WZ8C

Here's an idea I'd like to put out for reaction from the group:

I often send CQ at a much lower speed than my "top end," especially in the novice portion when I'm fishing for newcomers. Sometimes I get a reply from a ham who, from his call, is obviously not a newbie. But is his CW rusty, is he new to CW, or is he an experienced CW op, sending slow for the same reason I am?

Why not make our first exchange something like:
GE OM - UR RST 589 - QTH PODUNK, NH -
NAME IS DAN - CW 20 WPM - HW?

By each including your maximum comfortable CW speed in the first exchange, you could immediately speed up to the rate both are comfortable with, without asking embarrassing and complicated questions.

I've QSO'd for half an hour at 6 WPM already, only to find that both of us could have been sending 20, if only we each knew what the CW speed of the other really was. Dan, K8JWR

Slow Speed Net

I wish we could get more interested in the slow speed cw traffic nets. Pat and I are the only ones still alive here in Oklahoma, besides James KF5A that work the CW nets. We all three are on the morning arts net. **7060.5 kHz M/F and 10.120 kHz Weekends. About 7:15 am central time, to about 8:15 am central time.** We have a few new ones, but need more. Hey, come see us! Pat WB5NKD and Arley WB5NKC
Combo 6/7 2001 FISTS CW Club

Kudos

I want to acknowledge that Frank Long, N3ZOC, encouraged me to join FISTS.. He was my 2nd ever QSO actually, and told me about FISTS and its activities. I'd be grateful to see him acknowledged for this in the newsletter.
Dave KC2GZV #8031

Sorry this renewal is late, the date came and went before it dawned on me that I was going to be with the Keynote soon. Heaves forbid, This is the best outfit I ever belonged to. I am 70, been a ham 45 years and don't do contests any more.
73 Bernie W8VQV

FISTS should really be required to post a warning on their membership applications about this!

WARNING: NUMBER-CHASING HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE HIGHLY ADDICTIVE IN MANY LABORATORY CW OPERATORS. SYMPTOMS MAY INCLUDE: READING THE NEWSPAPER 'IN CW', HONKING YOUR ROAD RAGE 'IN CW', SLEEP DEPRIVATION, TYPING A WORK REPORT LACED WITH 'CW ABBREVIATIONS', GIVING YOUR FRIDAY NITE DATE YOUR FISTS NUMBER INSTEAD OF YOUR PHONE NUMBER, ETC.

IF YOU EXHIBIT THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE FOR YOU EXCEPT SHOOT FOR YOUR DIAMOND PLATINUM AWARD.'

When I joined FISTS a year ago, you folks said nothing about this stuff hihhi!! Lots fun and fine folks! Doug KY7F

I want to thank you very much for putting the request I had for a DOS logging program in the Fists Magazine. I got 6 responses and my request was taken care of. I am going to try to get more involved the net etc. Take care, thanks again and appreciate all you do for the Fists and the furthering of CW. Duane Hamilton Fists 7301

FISTS folks sure are the best!! WZ8C

Peterboro, NY 6-9-2001:

A special event station was operated by the Madison-Oneida County Amateur Radio Club (MOARC)-W2MO. This was in honor of the 9th annual re-enactment of the Civil War. SSB condx on 20 and 40 meters were not very good shape. Thanks to CW FISTS members John Payne KC2AOA-7053 and John Killian N2UC-3114 the day was a success. These two skilled FISTS members dug CW out of the white-noise and broke all record QSO totals for this special event. Is this a coincidence? MOARC has only four CW FISTS members. All four are Officers of the club! Does that tell us something about our FISTS Club? ...**GO FISTS!**

President = John Killian-FISTS 3114

V. President = Rich Swalgin FISTS 7093

Treasurer = John Payne-FISTS 7053

Secretary = Phil Arcuri-FISTS 1988

Submitted by: Phil Arcuri -AB2AUFISTS 1988

Very Wise Words!

When I was first licensed, 1977, I worked an OOT, G8VG, W.H. "Bill" Windle, an ex-WW I & WW II radio op. He sent me two QSL cards direct, one was his, and the other was that of the club station of the FOC, G4FOC.

He said on the back of his card, "**The standard of a good operator may be measured by the filter between his ears.**" I've never forgotten that statement — because of its unadorned beauty, simplicity and truth. Philip, K9PL

A FISTS Fist Is A Friendly Fist

Well I took the plunge and tailgated a QSO at 5watts. To my surprise Jeff (ZL1MRX) came back and before I knew it we were having a QSO. It was my first QSO on CW with a ZL and a FISTS #9001 as well. I had copied Jeff in a previous QSO so I knew most of what he sent. My nerves were racing and I sent slow and poorly, but I did not send too many bad characters. I did not exchange very well but that will come with practice and I had to keep sending BT while I found my CW sending notes. I have

these pre planned QSO's which were of no use .

I might have a 1x2 call and passed my 20WPM, but too many years has put me back in the slow lane, but a big thank you needs to go to Jeff for putting up with me. THANKS.... I have only made 5 or 6 contacts with 6317, but I'm looking to get my CC within 6 months, so watch out. BTW this QSO was on 14.058 at 4-50Z with 5watts. Best Regards to everyone, Bryn N4VM (Slow Hand Bryn) FISTS 6317

Rock Bound? Try this...

I am stuck a little of the beaten Fists path at 7.061.4. I use a VXO circuit that pulls the xtal freq down a max of 2 to 10 kHz, depending on xtal cut. It consists of a 100 pF variable in series with about 20 uH inductance in series with the xtal. The coil value is quite critical, so experiment. Dan, K8JWR

FM To HF?

We have several METRO (local club) members that want to learn, practice CW but don't have HF gear. Is there a cheap way to convert a FM rig to send and receive CW?? Tnx George W3BL

Year Old Log Entry

This just goes to show how far back the stuff in my mailbag goes - This came in last July from Leo AA8WD: On 6/26/00, @1448 EST on 14.037 MHz I was shocked to pick up an SOS - MAYDAY from a ship called Star in the Caribbean sea - QTH was 21W x 42N - on fire! They finally sent a QRT FIRE IN SHACK. I immediately QSP Coast Guard and following up later, was told they did a search with no find. Was wondering if anyone else copied the same transmission? Tnx, 73 Leo AA8WD.

New Fangled Bug

Pete's, K4PTU, XYL gave him a GHD Japanese made bug for Christmas. It does not have contacts; it uses photo cells and requires power - - 10 to 12 volts dc. Pete says it's a thing of quality workmanship...too beautiful to use!

I'd like to start this column with a bit of personal info if you don't mind. First thanks to all of you who contacted me about the death of my mother. Your kind words of condolences are greatly appreciated. For those of you who didn't know, my mother passed away in May after 6 weeks of various problems following a fall in late March. I am an only child and my mother and I were very close. I had retired early mainly to be able to take care of her the past 7 or 8 years so she wouldn't have to go into a nursing home. As I write this (June 26) she would have been 96 years old today.

The past couple of months have been hard on me, and have somewhat taken away my interest in ham radio. I still get on the air every day to get my daily QSO and keep my streak going - it's at 2519 consecutive days today. However once I get the daily QSO, I just don't feel like sitting there much longer to chase DX or get in contests, etc. Hopefully the interest will return before long. My mother was always very supportive of my hobby, and I sometimes think she got as much enjoyment out of seeing a big mailing of DX QSL's from the bureau as I did. Perhaps that's one reason for my diminished interest in ham radio.

Now let's get down to some QRP matters. This is a column I have wanted to do for some time now, but never got around to it. I want to discuss the reasons for success (or a lack of it) when using QRP.

There are some very basic factors that enter into how well you will do with QRP. Many times we hear that it's operator skill that determines how well you do. That's true to a certain extent, but it's far from the whole story. If you take two operators of equal skill and put one in a valley location with indoor antennas and the other on a hilltop with gain type antennas, who do you think is going to work the most DX or win the next contest? Right - the guy on the hilltop every time.

If you're a very competitive person, because of this it's easy to become discouraged with your QRP work and go back to QRO or even give up the

hobby altogether."

Let's look more closely at location. There are an infinite variety of locations ranging from the very worst down in a deep valley completely surrounded by mountains to the very best on top of a high hill where you can look DOWN at the horizon in every direction. These are obviously the extremes and most folks live at locations somewhere in between. However only slight differences in location can make a difference. Why? Read on.

If you live in a valley, your RF signal is going to have to be radiated at a higher angle to get out of the valley. Now that may not make all that much difference where you are working short skip and the angle of radiation is high anyway. However it might make the difference between being heard weakly at a DX station or not being heard at all. If your signal leaves at a high angle, it may have to take 3 or 4 hops to reach the DX station, and each hop attenuates the signal somewhat. I won't go into the math here, but I will say that someone living in a flat location may be able to reach that DX station in 1 or 2 hops and be an S6, while you in the valley with your 3 or 4 hops will only be an S4. If the DX station has a noise level of S5 or S6, guess who is going to get a QSO, and who won't make it. Again you're right.

In a contest you probably will get the QSO with your S4 signal, but it may take you a dozen or so calls to the station while the ham at the better location will get him with just a couple tries. Consequently the station at the better location will have time to make 2 or 3 more QSO's while you are still struggling to get the original station in the log. Who is going to have the higher score in the contest? You're now 3 for 3.

Another factor with locations is local noise levels. You may live right in town with all kinds of local electrical noise in addition to being down in that valley. The other guy at the good location may be out in the country with only a few local noise sources, or perhaps even none. Now you have another strike against you because he will hear more stations than you will, and you can't work 'em if

you can't hear 'em.

We can go through the same procedure in describing antennas. Obviously the guy with the better antenna farm has the advantage similar to the guy with the better location.

Another factor is time devoted to ham radio. If you're the type who believes family and other things are more important than ham radio, you are not going to spend the whole 48 hours in a big contest or get up regularly at 4 in the morning to try to work a certain part of the world to get that needed country to increase your DX totals. So the fellow who puts ham radio at the top of his list of priorities will win the contests and work the DX.

Does all this mean you can't succeed from a poor location with minimum antennas and a less than total commitment to ham radio? No. It only means that you will not do as well as the ham with the better location, better antennas, and a greater commitment. I am in the class of hams with the poor valley location, simple mostly indoor wire antennas, and the belief that ham radio is not everything in my life, yet I've worked almost 200 countries, won many contests, and had a great time in ham radio over the years. I've developed my operating skills to overcome the location/antennas handicap. However even with those skills there are certain hams that I will never beat in a contest nor work more DX than, even though I might possibly be more skilled than they are.

Please keep these things in mind if you feel yourself getting discouraged about QRP (or ham radio in general) because you don't think you are doing that well compared to certain other hams. Do what I do, and don't compare your results with theirs. In contests strive to beat your previous high score. In DX, just go for that new country to add 1 to your total, not to try to catch the other fellows DX total. In other words, compete against yourself, not others. It's the only fair competition. End of pep talk, and end of column. Visit me at www.alltel.net/~johnshan/ for much more QRP info. Till next month, 73. -30-

Help Our Volunteers! (and me!)

Everyone who helps out with FISTS -- me; the Bureau workers, managers of awards, supplies, presentations, prospective membership info, photopages, code buddies; email list; reading/ mailing tapes for the blind and many others -- is a volunteer.

Let's try and make their job as labor UN-intensive as we can. You may think 'oh it will just take him/her a few seconds to look that up for me, I don't have time right now....' Well, if a few hundred or a thousand people think that way, we're talking days of extra work a month.

Think about it..It takes us about 5 minutes to look up a FISTS number, callsign or address, by the time we get out the callbook, or CD, or bring up the computer, find the call and cross check it. If we have 100 people a month who need something that takes 5 minutes for us to look up, it adds up to 500 minutes, or almost 8 hours!

Please take the extra minute to include as much information as you can when you write to us. We'll really appreciate it and will be able to be more efficient in processing your request

Stan, K4UK, has some requests for those who use the Bureau...."Please again remind the members to put their call in BIG (LARGE) letters in the upper left hand corner of their SASE's. Some of them still don't even put their call on their SASE's - which requires me to figure it out by doing a search on their name or their town on my member's list.

Also, it is quite helpful if they will put the FISTS number of the station to whom the card is addressed on the card. It really helps us track down who the card is meant for if they have transposed some letters, or heaven forbid, have copied the call wrong - Hi!

The call variations I get for Josh, 6Y5WJ have been down-right amusing. There has been a lot of 6YHWJ, some 6Y5JW and a couple BY5WJ - these latter ones generally thanking Josh for the QSO from China! Stan K4UK"

Mailbox

I would like for you to print out a small thing for our members. "KN" means ONLY the station I'm in contact with answer; all others keep out. Not really the most polite thing to say unless you're having a private QSO with someone. "KN" should never be sent after calling CQ, that's like saying "no one answer." OK? A simple "K" will do the trick. 73 John W0LHK

To any Amateur stringing up dipole antenna from tree to tree -- I have found that using all-purpose clothesline rope, 1/4" round is weather resistant, sag resistant, knows easily and is very strong. I have had mine up for eight months now with no problems. 73 John K5DKK

A standing ovation for that CW operator on 7.138 MHz, heard most evenings. Out of 150 CQ's, he made 5 contacts, which upholds the truth "Many are called, but few are chosen." Such good code practice, and all still traveling in outer space. He deserves the award for the "most tries". 73 Dave K1BXZ

Burl, N5DUQ, sent along an article from the QRP Quarterly, which points out that too many CW operators run their dits and dahs together, creating gibberish. I know one of Geo's (G3ZQS) pet peeves is people who send "NAG" instead of "NAME", hi hi. Anyway, the point is that occasionally, you should tape record yourself sending. You may be surprised that what you THINK you are sending is not what people are hearing on the air.

I want you to know that I really enjoy FISTS as both a publication and -- more importantly -- as a working organization. I regularly tune to the

Robert VA3ROM writes that thanks to the people at Elcraft and their K1kit, he's gotten the QRP and CW bug back. It was a blast to build and use. It simplifies things and gets rid of the bells and whistles that aren't really needed, and it's brought him "back to the fold!"

I've been entertaining what may be a new concept to graphically connect two time planes, that is KEY-UP TIME and SPACING TIME between characters and word/number units; no signal time being time planes graphically. Key up and down time shown vertically graphically and spacing between word/number groups graphically shown horizontally. The mind's eye, thus views signals in a tight group.

A second concept. Ideally with the use of a keyboard keyer and keyboard, listen to letters and numbers, just one, over and over not less than 20 WPM while viewing that item graphically shown in a vertical plane, with the word or number printed above, as the letter "C" then practice the letter "Q", then "C" (space) "Q".

The code has great rhythm! Like the word THE. To start, this system uses Ear-Eye-Mind to get started. Concept: If you want to be FAST, why practice SLOW? “

[illegible]

Homebrew QRP Fun

I think one reason CW appeals to so many of us, is that it's like the secret codes we used to play with as kids - sending messages with flashlights, playing with code while in the Scouts...you can get the same type of "flashback" fun when you build your own and go camping..Kent, WA4DQU, writes: Last year I ordered five NE602 chips to play with. It is real easy to build throw away QRP rigs with these chips. You can build one on a 1 x 4 x 6 block of wood. Just glue the parts on and connect up the wires. When you get it up and running, you can waterproof the whole thing.

I am in the woods playing with one of these rigs hooked to an on the ground antenna. Making contacts up to 600 miles away, plus or minus, when the thought hits me...I feel like a spy...Do you suppose that is why the Powers That Be want to dump code? 73 Kent WA4DQU

It Takes Time..

Greetings: One answer to Ford, N0FP, on page 7 of Issue 3, 2001.

If you are learning CW (or trying to learn) you should not be listening for someone you can copy easily. You should always be listening for someone that you think is too fast. The premise for learning CW is to get on the air and work. Work (or call) everyone you can hear even if they seem to be going too fast. The best way to learn CW is jump in and get with it. Sure you won't copy 100%. If you can copy 100%, you're a better man than me, Gunga Din. When you get experience, you may be able to copy 97 or 98%. But that takes time. That is a big problem I've found with people trying to learn CW, no patience! Most think it is possible to spend 10 minutes a day on CW, for maybe 10 days. You got to grind it out. Spend TIME with CW. Remember CW is just like learning French or Spanish or any other foreign language. For it IS a foreign language! JUST DO IT! 73 Roy W5RJ ##137

In reference to Issue 4/2001 Keynote -- Tom N4RS, looking for FYO paddles. Well, got some good news and in between news. I kinda got one. How? I bought a new Bencher in the 1980's but never liked the way the base plate looked, boring. So this year to commemorate my 25 years of hamming, took hack saw and masking tape in hand and made the paddle look like an FYO! I now call it "Bencher/FYO".

First, I made a template with graph paper and imposed it onto the base plate. Of course, all the hardware is removed and the edges taped with a double layer of masking tape to protect it once clamped in the vise. After careful cutting, I dressed it with a flute file, then got it rechromed. Surprisingly the amount of metal removed has lightened considerably. You have to reposition the front rubber feet back cause the front corners are 1/4" clipped off, which in turn now has the feet projecting beyond the perimeter base. Or just live with the way it looks. I know it's not the real McCoy, but it sure is a lot more attractive to look at and it still has that nice paddle feel when sending.

On another topic, N0DJD wrote about modified mouse keyers. These converted computer mice are great for mobile or working portable operation, light and rugged. However it takes some getting used to. Sometimes they hang up and you're teaching yourself a new physical skill and the fingers don't want to respond the way you want to. Remember your first time sending with a paddle? I have trained myself to send with the opposite hand than what I use with the Bencher/FYO and computer mouse. Why? Cause it lessens the difficulty of relearning and confusion. Just ask any bug up how tough it was to relearn sending with iambic keys! Instead of calling it a modified mouse, I named it a Beaver Keyer because it related to the mouse, but it looks like the tail of a beaver. 73 Howard VE6FS

Proposed Calling Frequencies

Even though over 8500 FISTS numbers have been issued, people still seem to want to have specific areas of the bands where they can call CQ FISTS. I personally, don't like the idea of calling frequencies now that FISTS is so big, because they tend to not be used as "calling frequencies" where you make contact and move to another frequency to chat, but as "QSO frequencies" where frequency is monopolized by a few people for hours on end. Depending on band conditions, you can find FISTS members anywhere. Especially on the WARC bands, where the band spectrum is so small.

But, no matter what my personal feelings are, since many FISTS want calling frequencies, I asked Jim N9LEC to make a list of suggested frequencies. Jim put a lot of time and thought into this, polling people on email and internet reflectors, and, in addition to his own experience, compiled this list. Thanks, Jim, you did a terrific job!

After you've looked this listing over, we'd like to know your thoughts. From the input received here, Jim will refine the list and send it back to me. I'll print it in an upcoming Keynote and also put it on our web page.

These suggested frequencies have no effect on the DX calling frequencies, they are suggested for FISTS on this "side of the pond."

Please keep in mind that these frequencies are not etched in stone, and you are free to call CQ FISTS anywhere in the spectrum where CW is legal. Do not feel like you HAVE to use a calling frequency - that's self-defeating - we won't all fit. Also, remember that no one "owns" a particular frequency.

If you have any suggestions for changes please send them to Jim N9LEC or me (Nancy WZ8C). With all that being said, here is Jim's report.:

In January you requested that I undertake a study to determine appropriate calling frequencies for

various bands having substantial FISTS activity. After working on this project for several months I solicited input from others. The "others" eventually expanded into an ad hoc committee composed of many members of the FISTS@qth.net reflector.

Pursuant to your original assignment, and as the informal chairman of this ad hoc committee, I now report to you the following recommendations, which include suggested notes for use of certain frequencies.

Many of the frequencies in this report are not new. Some are already officially established, and others have been informally accepted and are in general use although they have never been officially designated.

Although there were vigorous, and at times even heated, discussions regarding proposals for various bands, ultimately all recommendations were approved by the committee without dissent, except for 40 meters where there remained a substantial difference of opinion.

After the main report I will attempt to set forth the dissenting views with respect to the 40 meter recommendation, however I am also sending a copy of this report to the FISTS@qth.net reflector and inviting anyone who believes my rendition of the dissenting positions is lacking to file a dissenting report in the form of an e-mail to you with copy to the reflector.

The recommendations are as follows:

=====

2m 144.058 MHz

6m 50.058 MHz

10m* 28.058 MHz

12m 24.918 MHz

15m* 21.058 MHz

17m 18.085 MHz
 20m* 14.058 MHz
 30m 10.118 MHz
 40m* 7.028 MHz — All IARU Regions
 40m 7.058 MHz — IARU Region 2
 80m* 3.558 MHz
 160m* 1.808 MHz

* Note 1: The calling frequencies for 10m, 15m, 20m, 40m - All IARU regions, 80m, and 160m, are only 2 kHz. below QRP calling frequencies (7.030 MHz is the QRP calling frequency in Europe). Please only QSY *down* from these frequencies.

U.S. Novice sub-bands

10m 28.158 MHz
 15m 21.158 MHz
 40m 7.118 MHz
 80m 3.708 MHz

Note 2: Please use the Novice sub-band calling frequencies as much as possible. It will benefit Novices, and also provide support for retaining the spectrum.

=====

There were initially four frequencies suggested as possible 40 meter calling frequencies, being: 7.028 MHz; 7.038 MHz; 7.058 MHz and 7.118 MHz. The 7.038 frequency was shifted a bit during our discussions to 7.035 MHz and eventually to 7.034 MHz.

Two calling frequencies for 40 meters are recommended above because out of the four original frequencies under consideration only 7.028 MHz is in the CW sub-band in all IARU regions and 7.058 MHz is so generally accepted and widely used as a calling frequency in the U.S. that it was thought there would be strong resistance to eliminating it.

Although 7.034 MHz is in the CW sub-band in all regions, no one in Regions 1 and 3 seemed to favor it, whereas 7.028 MHz had substantial support both inside and outside the U.S.

There are several dissenting positions with respect to the 40 meter recommendation, including:

To use 7.028 MHz as the exclusive 40 meter calling frequency because 7.058 MHz has too much QRM, 7.038 MHz is too close to the U.S. QRP calling frequency of 7.040 MHz, and 7.118 MHz is already being recommended as the 40 meter Novice calling frequency;

To retain 7.058 MHz as the exclusive 40 meter calling frequency, in order to avoid retreating from the encroachment of SSB into the CW sub-band;

To use 7.038 MHz (or 7.035 MHz or 7.034 MHz) as one of the 40 meter calling frequencies because it has the best "stateside" FISTS activity; and

To include the Novice 40 meter calling frequency of 7.118 MHz in addition to whatever other General calling frequency or frequencies are selected, in order encourage more activity in the Novice sub-band, thus providing more QSO opportunities for Novices and at the same time resisting the encroachment of SSB into the CW sub-band.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim
 N9LEC
 FISTS 3063

FISTS CLUB DOWN UNDER

Local News - Issue 6

12c Herbert Gardens- 186 The Terrace- Wellington
6001- New Zealand Tel: 0-4-473-0847 Fax 0-4-
473-0848 e-mail: z12aoh@radiodx.com or
z12aoh@ihug.co.nz

New Member

Welcome to **VK2DLF-George-9052**. It is nice to have another VK member aboard George.

Members' News

In renewing his subscription- **JE1CLH-Mack-9012** included a very generous donation. *Many thanks Mack- it is greatly appreciated.*

This from **ZL1LE-Brian-9011**. - Many thanks for the regular Fists newsletters. Please find enclosed my Fists subscription for the next year (plus a small donation towards the "stamps" fund). *(Thanks Brian)*. Sorry I haven't been as active as most seem to be but limited to 10 meters I manage just the occasional contact on 28058 and also contacts made during the 10-10 CW contests. Incidentally- my first contact in the contest this past weekend was with an old friend- Dave- W8III (Fists #5058). The UK continues to elude me on CW although I have logged the GB3RAL beacon on 28216 quite a few times. I usually scan around 28058 whenever I hear GB3RAL but as this is inevitably around breakfast time it is not a popular procedure.

I have just been polishing up the brass label on my key which I have used for 50 years or so. The label (undated) reads: ELLIOTT BROTHERS (LONDON) LIMITED.

ZL3SL-Derek-9042 reports that he has moved his QTH from the Canterbury plains to the city. Check the Down Under membership list.

ZL1CDX-Geordie-9048 has new QSL cards prominently featuring a Rotorua trout and the FISTS logo. He has been busy on the air and has already achieved enough points for the Century Award from six countries.

ZL1DQ-Jae-9047 reports that he has a new e-mail address - <z11dq@nzart.org.nz>

ZL1MRX-Jeff-9001 and **ZL1OK-Anna-9017** also have a new e-mail address - <monkfish@actrix.co.nz>. Our dictionary defines "monkfish" as "The Angel Fish, *Squatina angelus*" - probably not good eating!

K4UK-Stan-2934, our hard working North American QSL manager wrote: I put WW2DDM on the air during the CQ WW WPX Contest this weekend for a few hours.

Worked only one station down your way: VK5GN.

I did manage 330 QSOs with my "unique" WW2 prefix. Sure had a time getting some of the guys to understand it was indeed WW2 and not WA2 - and was WW2DDM and not WW2DD - Hi! I look forward to a QSO with some of you folks down under from WW2DDM. We've got 3000 QSL cards ordered, so we'll need good conditions to make that many contacts.

Tell all your FISTS members that QSLs for WW2DDM can be sent via the FISTS QSL Bureau even though we don't have a FISTS number as yet for the call.

ZL3CED-Charlie-9039 reports: I am working at the Air NZ Engineering Base during the week. Fly home for weekends but it doesn't leave much time for amateur radio at the moment. I get on the air most Saturday afternoons to work long path but that is about it at the moment. Thanks

for the info you have sent through the last few days. I will certainly make an effort to work them. Our son has gone flatting now and in the next few weeks I am moving the shack inside from the garage into the spare bedroom where it is warmer !!

ZL1BIQ-Keith-9009 wishes that the bands were better, as it is hard to get any contacts. Nevertheless he is enjoying trying. *It didn't prevent him from arriving at our door for a brief eyeball QSO and a large bundle of QSL cards*

Japanese FISTS Web Site

Japanese FISTS have established a web site at <<http://www.coara.or.jp/~kosuke/>>. There aren't many Japanese FISTS (in fact we outnumber them) but they have an interesting site. FISTS has received publicity in Japan through an article in the Japanese CQ Magazine by **Nobu Takahashi JF3KNW** who visited Wellington late in 2000. *Is any of our members prepared to set up a FISTS Down Under web site?*

Editor's Activities

Help! At 09:47 UTC on 26 April 2000 I worked a station in the Spratly Islands. I recorded it as BY2AB/1S on 14.035.25 MHz RST 569. As BY2AB was not recorded on my Call Book CD, I sent off the card with IRCs to the CRSA bureau in Beijing. Sadly it was returned as "call sign unknown." I haven't been able to get any information on the DXpedition and wonder if any of our members worked the station around that time, and could help with either a correct call sign or a QSL address. Being prime DX, it's a contact I'd love to confirm.

I will be away in Ohakune during June for a couple of weeks to fire up the electric fence on the property there. It will be cold there at this time of the year, so there will be plenty of indoors time to test the conditions. I will be in e-mail contact so able to deal with any member matters. If the June Key Note is not included here, it is because it has not arrived before my departure. I will send it later on my return home.

That's all folks.73 de

Ralph

New Zealand News - Issue 7

Members' News

ZL1ATW-Matt-9010 in sending a QSL reported that he says he hasn't been active lately but hopes to do better shortly. *Thanks for the stamps Matt.*

Recently we sent a circular letter to all VK members discussing the problem that has arisen with the big increase in international postal rates. The minimum increase to Australia was from 80 cents to \$1.50. Allowing for eleven mailings a year that is an extra \$7.70 per member. If we could get the newsletter photocopied in Australia and mailed from there it would be possible to hold subscriptions. At present we are having photocopying done for approximately 7 cents a side. From information received from VK members it appears that it would cost about 20-25 cents Australian per side. So that is not a suitable option.

To increase the subscription or Australian members risks losing existing members and may deter new members joining.

Reluctantly it is necessary to consider raising the subscription for Australian members from \$16.00 to \$20.00 Australia.

lian, say, from the end of 2001 but will defer the decision pending receiving further comment from VK members. We have already received a few comments from Australian members that will appear in Members News. More views are welcome from either side of the moat. **VK2PS-Steve-9022** sent some QSLs and wrote in response to the letter on VK member subscriptions: I agree with your suggestions and sentiments. Because of other commitments I am unable to volunteer.

Cost of commercial photocopying per page in VK is 20 cents Australian. Some charge 25 cents. You must find somebody who owns a photocopying machine and who is willing to do the work.

Increase in subs will lose members. Sorry, I do not have e-mail facilities. I hope some solution can be found.

In renewing their subscriptions **ZL1BSG-Keith-9000** and **ZL2CD-Bill-9004** kindly included donations that are greatly appreciated. Keith says that the bands have not been very good and that he is not finding many new contacts. Bill, on the other hand has worked some interesting DX lately:

ZA1E		Albania	10.103
MHz	04:46Z	QSL to I2MQP	
EA8WH		Canary Is	10.106
MHz	05:26Z		
PU0F		Fernando de Norhona	7.005
MHz	04:30z	QSL to KU8C	
FO0SCH		French Polynesia	14.015
MHz	04:33z		
ZS2YU		South Africa	10.105
MHz	04:59Z		
4S7EA		Sri Lanka	21.018
MHz	23:25Z		
YV1DIG		Venezuela	10.103
MHz	05:04Z		
3B6RF		Agallega Is	28.464
MHz	05:20Z	QSL to HB9AGH	

ZL1CDX-Geordie-9048 wrote: I'm working new FISTS contacts and new members every other day. To prove the old adage about Morse getting through when nothing else will, the other evening I had a very difficult contact (due to conditions) with Ray- FISTS 2278. The reports were RX 2-2-9 TX 5-2-9 with everything repeated three times. I would like to thank the guys on the side for being so patient and understanding.

As you can see I got ZL1BLR Len (the CW Guru) to check my Century Award application and have enclosed two books of stamps to cover costs (*Thanks Geordie. Congratulations on getting the CC award so quickly. The going rate for certificates is \$5.00. A membership brochure has been sent to Len.*)

I read your appeal for assistance with running the club but at present can only offer moral support. I'm sure some of the retired chaps will be able to help.

New member **VK2DLF-George-9052** wrote from VK2: In the membership section you are asking for any suggestions as to how to improve the membership in VK. Well the best bet would be to send emails to all the Radio magazines and ask them to put something in club news or news section about the FISTS club and make people aware of its existence. Also put a notice on the packet BBS once a week for a while and you should get some answers.

I am almost every night on 3.537 MHz at 10:30 UTC that is 8:30pm here. I want to make it a regular net. In that way

I hope to bring the whole business of CW a bit back to life. But I will not be there on Mondays. The good thing about Fists is that they are not interested in high speed Morse, because I find if you are talking about fast Morse, you will loose about 80% of potential members. We have a Morse code club here in VK, but I would say that most amateurs would not know about them. Some how they are very good at keeping it a secret. Strange! OK then Ralph, I may hear from you soon hopefully on CW; it is after all the A1A mode. Cheers and 73. George.

Thanks George. We have tried the methods you suggest with only modest results. However we do repeat them occasionally. The best publicity is, of course, word of mouth, either directly or on the air. It is hoped that all members take every opportunity of publicising the club. George has an interesting web site at <<http://www.morsekeys.com>> that is well worth a visit.

Some sad news from **ZL2ZLW-Iain-0012**: Just to let you know that I have disposed of all my HF equipment and will not be operating from my home station in the foreseeable future. I shall retain my call sign and FISTS membership for Club or Special Event opportunities as they present themselves. *You are always welcome to operate from the QTH of ZL2AOH Iain, when the urge gets too strong.*

ZL1DQ-Jae-9047 advises that he has a new telephone number; now 021-140-7238. *Thanks for the good wishes Jae.*
QSL Bureau

From 1 August 2001 **ZL2TX-Nigel-9040** has kindly volunteered to manage the FISTS Down Under QSL bureau. So, from that date, please address your outgoing cards to Nigel. His address is: **20 Greenwood Boulevard, R D 1, Otaki 5560.** Phone **0-6-364-5202.** E-mail address is **<zl2tx@ianz.co.nz>**. Apart from the change of manager, there will be no change to the operation of the bureau. Incoming cards will still be distributed with the FISTS Down Under newsletter.

Remember to sort cards. For USA, sort by the zone and suffix, (ignoring the prefix letters.) All other cards should be sorted strictly by the whole call. Remember that numbers sort before letters but (just to be awkward) 0 (zero) sorts after 9 (nine)

Please always put the other station's FISTS number on the card. This helps the staff of the other bureaux in getting the cards to the correct destinations. It also helps the sender to avoid sending in cards that are not for FISTS members.

Editor's Activities

I had a couple of weeks working from Ohakune. Although propagation conditions were quite good, the locally generated noise was terrific at times. There are two engineering works nearby and I expect they were working overtime to get the skifield equipment in top condition before the opening of the season. I wonder if there is any possible way of suppressing the QRM caused by welding?

On the way home I called in to visit **ZL2TX-Nigel-9040**. Nigel has a nice QTH in the country just outside Otaki. He has a vertical antenna at present but has ideas for more expansive antennas. Nigel has kindly volunteered to take on some of the tasks administering FISTS Down Under and as you will note above is to manage the QSL bureau from 1 August. He is also planning to edit the newsletter from 1 September. There are financial and logistic prob-

lems arising from that and we are investigating these. The next issue of the newsletter will tell you what is happening. My activities will be to administer all membership matters and issue awards plus anything else that needs to be done.

I have recently acquired a notebook computer so am able to carry on computing away from home. I was able to receive, print and despatch Key Note when away from home, partly thanks to the friendly manager of a local hotel who did the photocopying at a favourable rate.

That's all folks.

73 de Ralph

FISTS Down Under August 2001

New Members

We have five new members to whom we extend a cordial welcome. It has been a particularly good month for new VK members.

VK4BCM-Bevan McAleer-9053 who lives in sunny Queensland just outside Brisbane, doubling our membership in that state.

John Blake-9054, second member from Kingston, Tasmania. He is unlicensed at present, but is working hard towards getting his call. We hope that happens soon - watch this space! John is obviously very serious, having purchased a really professional hand key - see more below. **ZL1ANY-Stephen Pearce-9055** from Whangarei, who hopes to improve on the usual brief exchanges. *There are plenty of FISTS members who enjoy a good rag chew.*

VK2KET-Alex Berkuta-9056 from Albion Park, New South Wales, who wrote the following introduction: Thank you for forwarding the application for the 'Fists' Club on the e-mail and the opportunity of joining the group. I look forward to the activities and events that Fists run on air.

George VK2DLF and others have been leading me along with my first tentative steps in CW and it has become fun to use as I become familiar with the mode. As a member of the CW QRP Operators club here, I am amazed at how a few miserly Watts (or milliwatts) of CW RF can get through on our Tuesday night nets even though it may be a ratty night on 80m full of S9 QRM while 100 watts of SSB is lucky to make it through on better nights on our "natters" net. It will not be long before I will be able to sit for our full call CW exam and get a new call sign; a long hoped for ideal (as in 40 years).

My main CW rig is a scratch built Sierra (as in the ARRL handbook) with only about 1.5 -8 Watts out depending on the band, but it was enough to get my first DX CW contact to ZL recently on 80m. I am looking forward to more CW contacts with FISTS club members and others as well. I gather that it may be possible to obtain the newsletter in electronic form as this reduces costs in copying and mailing, and would prefer this if possible to my e-mail address that is on the application form.

Fists Down Under is prepared using Microsoft Word that is readily available to most computer users. It is possible, therefore, to distribute it easily by e-mail to those members who request it. On the other hand, Key Note is prepared on a different program (Pagemaker 6) that is not widely available to the average computer user. However arrangements are being made to receive it in .PDF format. .PDF files require Adobe Acrobat reader, a program that is readily available free on the Internet. One VK member

already relies on receiving his Fists Down Under by e-mail and his Key Note in PDF format. For those who wish to get both newsletters by these procedures, please send us an e-mail message and we will change the distribution method for you.

Alex further writes: Thank you for the information and Certificate for Fists membership, and I guess that I had better hang around .058 frequencies, now I know why they are so congested at this section. My age 51 and an amateur on/off for 10 years, re-activated the licence 18 months ago and sat for the CW exams for an intermediate upgrade and working on the full call requirement for 10 wpm. Active on CW for about 12 weeks and loving it. CW equipment is a scratch built version of the Norcal Sierra multi band QRP CW transceiver (via plug in modules) and a QRP Ten Tec Argonaut 515 for SSB on the CW operators club natter on Friday nights. I have just acquired one of Georg VK2DLF's beautiful straight keys and relegated the rest to the shelf for display, it's that good. I look forward to seeing if I can contact other fists members on air.

VK2MQX-Chris Thompson-9057 from Old Toongabbie, New South Wales sent his application to England from where it is on its way back here; but it has yet to arrive. Meantime we have processed his membership to save time and hope to have more information from Chris in a later newsletter.

Subscriptions for Australian Members

There has been development since the matter of subscriptions for VK members was aired last month. Thanks to the initiative John-9054 arrangements are underway that should mean that subscriptions for our Australian members remain at the same level as at present for the foreseeable future. Details will be announced in detail in next month's Fists Down Under.

Members' News

ZL1BIL-Bill-9003 says that things have been pretty quiet at his place on the Kapiti Coast, with not many contacts. In the cold weather with several successive frosts (which are unusual for that area,) it is hard to work up much enthusiasm.

He suggests that if anyone is interested, there is an excellent propagation program W6ELProp that is free. It can be found on the Internet at <http://www.qsl.net/W6ELProp> or on A6CV's massive website at <http://www.ac6v.com>. He says that 425 DX News is running a survey on the most popular forecasting program, so it will be interesting to see which comes out on top.

ZL3CED-Charlie-9039 reports: Evenings here have been very cold, but the shack is now inside where it is warm. Building a two-element miniature beam for 10/15/40m at the moment so I hope to have that up soon. A French design and apparently works very well. We'll just wait and see. In the meantime my sloping dipole is giving me very good results (when the bands are OK) so I cannot complain. See "Trading Post" below.

John-9054 has purchased a key that was described by the vendor thus. This key was designed for large communications rooms where several operators would have been working side-by-side, and working shifts. They have been used in similar service in Royal Australian Naval comms centres. The key is housed in a noise-reducing, light blue, fibreglass case. The main frame appears to be stainless steel and the workings, plated brass. Instead of a

fulcrum bearing, the operating arm is tensioned and located by a leaf spring. The tension is adjustable when the cover is removed (two thumb screws); the throw is adjustable from outside the cover by a graduated knob, so different operators can get a reliable throw when their shift comes along. In the bottom of the key's chassis is a circuit board containing both make and break click filters. At the rear of the chassis, all the connections are brought out to a screw-down terminal block. It is a beautiful key with a solid feel - good for long operating sessions - or, good to look at! For calculation of postage, the key in its shipping packaging weighs 5lb 4oz, or 2.4kg.

We would welcome news of any other interesting keys owned by members.

VK3DBD-David-3756 sent a bundle of QSLs from London while visiting there. He reported the climate in these words, "Cor, it's hot!"

VK6PG-Alan-9018, **ZL1ARW-Jim-9006** and **ZL2AVL-Bill-9033** in renewing their subscriptions included a donation. **ZL1MRX-Jeff-9001** also sent a donation of stamps *Thanks fellows.*

SV5GW0VSW-Carl-1887 reports this tale of woe (via **ZL2TX-Nigel-9040**): "Just a note to let everyone know that my operation from Rhodes was brought to an abrupt end on the fifth day. My antenna was attached low down on the roof of what I thought was another holiday apartment. However, it was privately owned and the owner was not happy when he discovered the antenna. There also may have been a TVI problem. The result was a very angry owner shouting down at me from his roof accompanied by a local policeman. Despite attempts to apologise and move the antenna, the police advised in no uncertain terms to close down. A visit to the local Police Station with copies of my passport and licence followed. I have not heard anything since! Fingers crossed! I had made just over 100 contacts up to this point."

Congratulations to **ZL2TX-Nigel-9040** on achieving his century award.

VK2PS-Steve-9022 was a featured speaker at the recent meeting of the VK2 Conference of Clubs. His topic was the future of amateur radio.

VK2DLF-George-9052 has been busy promoting FISTS in VK. This has resulted in a couple of new members and a few other inquiries.

George has updated his web site and there is a nice surprise to be found in the top left hand corner of his display. Go to <http://www.morsekeys.com>.

He has views on Morse speed and writes: In my last letter to you I said that "good that FISTS is not interested in fast Morse". I meant to say that it's good that FISTS is not "necessarily" interested in fast Morse. When I talk about slow Morse, I don't talk about 5 or 8 wpm. I think of 15 or 18 wpm. and the best way to get that result is to encourage ops to use the Farnsworth method. Send the letters at about 14 wpm and leave space in between them; that way one gets up in speed automatically. The down out dits and dahs should never have been used. but 18 - 20 wpm would be a natural barrier, because most people write it all down, me included, and it is a bit hard to write faster. After that one must learn to read it without writing it down. That is a different story all together. I can't say anything about that because I can't do it! Therefore I think we will have a lot of ops that are stuck at that speed; myself included. But 15 - 18 or even 20 wpm is not a bad speed.

We believe that the correct speed is the one that the slower operator is comfortable with.

Trading Post

Wanted by ZL1DD-Barry-9029: Dead, dying, or sick Kenwood TS930. Contact details: Barry Kirkwood ZL1DD Internet: <http://www.waiheke.co.nz/signal.htm>

Wanted by ZL2AOH-Ralph-1073: El cheapo hand held transceiver for maritime frequencies. Contact details: Ralph Sutton ZL2AOH e-mail: z2aoh@ihug.co.nz

Straight Key Night

ZL1DDD-Barry-9029 has been busy organising this new NZART activity. He has sent this preliminary notice that will be followed up with an update if any of the details change. *(Every night s straight key night at this QTH!)* Blow the dust off that old telegraph key and enjoy an evening of old time radio fun. This is intended as an activity night rather than a cut and thrust contest.

When: Sunday 04 November (Would Saturday be better?) from 0800 to 1000Z. Band: 80m (3.5 MHz)

Mode: CW sent with STRAIGHT KEY i.e. classic hand pump type key. Divisions: Vintage QRP Open QRP Vintage Open Notes: QRP = 5 Watts or less output. Vintage = Receiver and transmitter / transceiver (home made, military or commercial), using thermionic valves. No solid-state devices in the signal line transmit or receive. Exchange: RST/ operator's name/ type of key used (e.g. ZC1, P&T), / TX/RX type (e.g. ZC1, FT 1000)/ antenna (e.g. inverted Vee) Points: 1 point per QSO. Stations may be worked only once, CW to CW. All stations submitting logs MUST use a straight key, but straight key stations may QSO CW stations using bugs, electronic keyers or keyboards. Multipliers: Vintage QRP: Multiply total score by 2.0 ; QRP: multiply score by 1.5 ; Vintage: multiply score by 1.2; Open: multiply score by 1.0

Logs: 1. For each QSO line cite: time, callsign station, RST/ key type/ RX/TX type/ antenna (of station worked) 2. Calculate number QSOs, multiplier, total score claimed. 3. Full details of equipment used in the event. 4. Any comments and CLAIMS (see below) 5. Name of operator, callsign of station, address of station, NZART Branch,

Send logs by post, fax, or email WITHIN TEN DAYS of contest to: Barry Kirkwood ZL1DD, Signal Hill Homestay, 66 Cory Road, Palm Beach, WAIHEKE ISLAND 1240
Email: bjk@ihug.co.nz Phone/fax (09) 372-5161

Awards: All participants sending in a log will receive a certificate. Special certificates for the top three operators in each division. Participants are invited to make claims on behalf of themselves or others E.g.: "best DX", "best fist", "longest QSO", "most ancient key/ rig/ operator, etc". Certificates may be annotated accordingly at the Manager's discretion. Any photos of stations, operators or equipment gratefully received.

Ireland - 12 WPM

The ODTR the licensing authority for amateur radio experimenters in Ireland have informed IRTS Secretary John Corless, EI7IQ, that it is not possible to reduce the Morse speeds to 5 wpm for access to the HF bands under current legislation. The change can only be made when new legislation is introduced.

Under present regulations, visitors to Ireland with full HF privileges gained with Morse speeds of less than 12 words per minute can only operate as Class B licensees, despite CEPT directives. This announcement follows calls for the

immediate implementation of 5 wpm testing in line with world-wide trends, from the IRTS Committee and members at the recent AGM. It further highlights the urgency of the new legislation, which has been promised now for a number of years. (IRTS via QNEWS)

United States - Morse Practice On-Line

Pat Tice, WA0TDA, of the Handi-Hams reports that the Stillwater, Minnesota Amateur Radio Association has a regular code class Thursday evenings. The cyberspace class exposes a listener to basic letters over and over at progressively faster speeds. The audio is in RealAudio format, and the texts of the lessons are posted along with the audio. To find the service and the lessons, check out <http://www.qsl.net/handiham>

Useful DX Tool

ZL2AL-Lee Jennings has informed us of an interesting computer program. It is **DX Atlas** and can be downloaded in about five minutes from <http://www.dxatlas.com>. You can try it out for 30 days to see if it meets your needs before you need to register.

DX Atlas is a software map program designed for the amateur radio DXer. It displays world maps in both rectangular and azimuthal projections. Overlays are provided for amateur prefixes and CQ and ITU zones.

Text indices are included for prefixes, cities and islands. Statistical information on each of these is available with a right click. The program can display an index, a map or both simultaneously.

The user can select a home location and antenna bearings and distances are automatically calculated (both LP and SP) to points on the map and in the indices.

Maps can be zoomed in and out and the grey line can be added to any map display. The grey line automatically reflects the current time and date from the computer clock, or a fixed time (past or future) can be entered for a specific purpose. Sunset/sunrise times are shown for any point on a map.

There is also an optional clock displaying date, time, and local sunrise/sunset. The display can be toggled between UTC and local time.

DX Reflector

Another initiative of **ZL2AL-Lee Jennings** is the establishment of a NZ DX reflector that enables subscribers to post and receive up to date DX information. It also features a buy and sell section. To subscribe or to post messages access the web site http://canon.interspeed.co.uk/mailman/listinfo/dx_powertools.co.nz

Editor's Activities- (By ZL2AOH)

Having been the newsletter editor since the inauguration of Fists Down Under in 1998 it is time to hand over the baton to **ZL2TX-Nigel-9040** who has kindly volunteered to assist in the administration of the VK/ZL chapter of FISTS. As reported earlier, Nigel has also taken over the VK/ZL FISTS QSL bureau. I will continue to handle all membership issues and the administration of the FISTS awards for our local members in ZL and VK. I hope that you will maintain the excellent cooperation and friendship with Nigel that I have enjoyed from all members. Nigel and I will be in close contact so if there are any grey areas we will be able to sort things out very quickly and easily. Nigel's contact details are listed in the masthead. That's all folks. Over to you Nigel! 73 de Ralph

Combo 6/7 2001

FISTS CW Club

DX KEYNOTE Issue 6 by Geo, G3ZQS

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

AWARDS MANAGER: G0FRL

12 Cavenham Grove, BOLTON, BL1 4UA

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO

86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY

E-Mail: fists01@aol.com

International Morse Preservation Society

Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS

US 0100Z on 14058

Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)

Net Control G3HZL

DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> or <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/>

GREETINGS

Wow! Summer (or something which closely equates to it) has arrived at last. Up here in the North West of England, there is traditionally an overcoat in difference between us and the South Coast and Home Counties but this year, for more than a few days, this has been reversed. The tits have finally arrived but oddly, one of the most common characters of our birdlife - the starling - has not shown up. I know there are several huge flocks in some surrounding areas and perhaps the individuals which have been prominent in previous years have merely been the adventurous from one of these communes but their absence still leaves me with a very strange feeling. OK, they perch on my beam elements, their toilet training leaves something to be desired, they are raucous and frequently compete with the weak sounds coming from the rig but I still miss 'em.

There are times when it pays to switch off! A threesome enjoying a multi-way natter on a common 40m frequency recently was being badgered and harassed by another station who announced his presence by tuning up on the frequency they were using, sending VERY slow TEST TEST TEST and downing his key for prolonged periods. Frustrated, they agreed to QSY about 2 KHz away and - yes you have guessed it, the fool fol-

lowed them and continued his anti-social activities. One of the group seemed to know (or at least suspect) who the jammer was and, with politeness which was not deserved, addressed him by name and asked him to quit. He had risen to the bait! The response was a series of HI HI HI and more protracted periods of key down. Now, these three gents sank to abandoning their original topic and exacerbated the situation by heaping abuse on their tormentor calling his parentage into question and generally making a bigger mess than the idiot had instigated in the first place. This is a rare occurrence by CW standards but surely the wisest action would have been what they were ultimately obliged undertake - close down.

EXTREME QRS

The topic introduced last month may well have been regarded as inflammatory but it was surprising how little feedback was generated. There was ONE member who acquiesced (though with reservations) and three responded indignantly to the suggestion that very slow CW should be discouraged. It is worth mentioning however that the lone supporter of a limit stressed the importance of wider improver support than we have at present. GM4HYF for instance is given very little publicity for the tape service he provides and there is virtually no onward support on 2m for those seeking to increase their reading speed. As far as I am aware, the RNARS still do their regular speed run from QRS to QRQ but I see no publicity about this service or indeed any other. Of course QRS should not be discouraged - the 5 wpm test is an invitation to ignore CW altogether and get on SSB with the least possible effort.

Far better to deal with the situation. Actively encourage anyone who appears at 5wpm. With a few real contacts under their belt their speed will rapidly increase to the 9wpm 'hump', and then beyond. The bands may be busy now, but what about in 5 years time? Anyone who is using the 5wpm speed requirement as a quick & easy way to HF will probably throw their key away immediately the ticket arrives, but those brave enough to present themselves on the band at 5wpm CW must be interested in the mode and deserve encouragement.

And a last word from the more vociferous of this small batch of responses:

Can I make a final plea for FISTS to actively get back to its core 'mission'. Fostering the joy of CW operation and offering encouragement to those starting out on the rocky road to learning the code.

This subject has raised its head before and the arguments put forward, rightly or wrongly, reflect those views. Contrary to the observation that no-one is applying this sort of speed, there is sufficient activity on 80m and even on 40m to sit up and take notice.

I first encountered this suggestion when visiting the US which somewhat surprised me since there was acreage of space lying fallow on their expanded 40m band and in the evenings, apart from a few traffic handlers, there is almost no activity on 80m.

We would I am sure, be better off crediting the QRS operator with sufficient intelligence to realise that his presence close to a DX pileup or on a contest weekend would be futile and fruitless. The name of the game is encouragement.

As was pointed out last month, the availability of a diminutive but very effective computer programme for converting quite decent sized text files into a CW format which is useable on most computers with a sound board attached could largely counter the reduced number of slow Morse broadcast stations. I converted a small text file using 12 wpm, added one space between characters and three spaces between words which is roughly the spacing I used for slow Morse sessions on 2m but sadly, it does not recognise more than one space. Pity.

However, those of you engaged in producing QRS tapes may possibly like to consider this as an optional service since we seem to be rapidly approaching the situation where computers are as much a part of the average household as the ubiquitous television receiver. Hi.

IMPORTING KIT

When you order stuff from another country, you could be falling into a trap which separates you from quite a bit of your cash. The following from G8VG explains:

A couple of months ago I imported from the USA a K2 transceiver in kit form. I paid VAT @ 17 1/2% and Customs (Import) Duty. You can't get away without paying VAT but I have recently established that such equipment is exempt from Import Duty. The Customs and Excise tariff lists the items that are exempt and the relevant heading reads as follows :

Transmission Apparatus for Radio-Telephony, Radio-Telegraphy, Radio-Broadcasting or Television, whether or not incorporating Reception Apparatus or Sound Recording or Reproducing Apparatus; Television Cameras; Still Image Video Cameras and other Video Camera Recorders.

This heading covers items that are many and varied but it is the first two mentioned that are relevant where amateur radio transceivers are concerned. Each item mentioned has, what is called a 'commodity code' and that relating to transceivers is 8525209900.

My helpful contact with the Customs & Excise told me that consignments arrive in this country with very obscure descriptions on the Customs forms. He said that if there was any doubt about an item then duty would be charged. There must be many amateurs who have paid Import Duty unnecessarily. I have been advised that when gear is ordered from abroad, the supplier should be asked to properly, and fully, describe it on the Customs forms. e.g., 'Transceiver apparatus for radio- telegraphy.' It is also essential for the supplier to include on the Custom forms the 'Commodity Code No 8525209900.

The suppliers of my K2 included the Commodity Code on the forms but described the consignment as a Hobby kit of Electronic Parts for Amateur Radio. Clearly this description did not meet the requirements of Customs & Excise who slapped on Import Duty. I am now negotiating with them for reimbursement of the sum involved.

Another point worth mentioning is that when the US suppliers sent my K2 kit they included the optional SSB kit that I did not order. (What's SSB ?) At their request I returned the SSB kit by airmail and am still trying to get a refund of the VAT and Customs Duty that I paid on it. Fortunately I have proof of posting but the Customs

and Excise have advised me that it would have been easier to process my claim if I had approached their local office before exporting the unwanted item. I am still waiting, optimistically I might add, to get my money back.

EMPTY ENVELOPES

My apologies to a few members who received a somewhat lightweight newsletter in the post. The cause of the empty envelopes was due to using self-sealing envelopes instead of the normal gummed type because after stuffing a Keynote in the one on the top of the stack, the one below occasionally stuck to it. So far seven cases have been reported which I don't suppose is too bad from a total postal load of 1070.

In fact, I was penny-pinching again because it turns out the self-seal envelopes are actually CHEAPER than the bog standard gummed ones. Now if anyone can explain that, I would be grateful.

RSGB MORSE TEST ANNIV WEEKEND

This annual event caused both 40 and 80m to be loaded with CW activity. From HQ, I managed to work 11 of 'em on 40m during the Saturday p.m. though further activity was a no-no for the rest of the weekend due to domestic chores.

There was also a contest running at the same time though it had little effect upon the activity and whilst some of the operators were known to be greyhounds and were worked at some pace, they were all returning with the speed at which they were called resulting in much M5 and 2E0 QRS contacts. Pity it is restricted to a once per year event - it was great fun.

SMART TUNER REQUIRED

We have a member who would like if possible to 'borrow' a smart tuner for a couple of weeks. Any one oblige, offers to HQ Pse.

ROAD USERS BEWARE!

I had to put my car in dock for it's M.O.T., and was told it wouldn't be ready until later that day. Having no transport to get back home, my xyl suggested that I use my sons micro scooter. Loony that I am, I agreed and my 9 year son would escort me back on his bike. We left the car at the garage and set off for home me as leading scout and my son Nathan, taking up the rear and all went well for the first couple of miles

apart from the looks I was getting from other traffic. We stopped at the works QTH of G4BNU and left Paul in a daze wondering if what he had seen was real as I scooted away like the clappers with my son in hot pursuit. Only one mile from home so what could go wrong? I spotted my fifteen year daughter Amanda walking with friends so I thought I would show them how good I was on a scooter after all, I am a FIST, so did a bunny hop and it went wrong. I went over the handle bars and finished up on the deck surrounded by giggling schoolgirls. I picked myself up with a big grin as if it were nothing though every bone in my body was crying out and sped off for home. By now my daughter had phoned with news of the happening so there was precious little sympathy from the family.

Reckon your QSL manager (Chuck, M0AVW) must have felt a proper 'nana' and I trust he will not be trying /M on two wheels.

TO QRL OR NOT?

In my opinion there is no need to send QRL if one just spends a little time listening on a frequency before transmitting. One can hear if a frequency is in use even if there are only weak signals. This practise of QRL? was started by EU stations and is unnecessary. What do the membership as a whole think? G3ZDD.

Derek has encountered a few of those deaf operators who call QRZ? and despite a response of YES, proceeds to place a general call. Was he indeed deaf or did he employ a very narrow filter which placed the response outside his bandpass? According to Mr. Blair, we are all Europeans anyway but no matter who took up the practice, it must surely be regarded as a courtesy. Personally I would prefer the query rather than an unwelcome general call but confess I am frustrated when the originator of an S9 signal fails to tune round the frequency or at least does not hear my response. In any case, I would love to hear what you think!

UBA OVERSEAS WINNER

G4RCG sent me a copy of the results of the UBA contest held in February in which he is listed as winner in the overseas section. John says it was a very 'easy going' contest and he thoroughly enjoyed taking part. He would like to seem more

FISTS activity on this and others of the same nature.

DISCLAIMERS

David, G3ZPF, really does dig up some odd things when 'surfing the net' and the latest concerns the disclaimer clauses inserted at the bottom of most e-mails intended to ensure that no-one is offended in a legally contestable way. The author of this suggestion (Failur) proposes to amend his to read:

This Email is meant to offend everyone equally. If, for some reason you are not offended, please write me with a description of yourself including your name, race, weight, religious views, political party, strong opinions, physical disabilities, weird sexual preferences, or anything else that you are touchy about, and I will try to offend you in the near future. You need it and if I can't do it, nobody can. Just sit tight and wait your turn.

I like it!

THE SPACE BOUND HAM

Further to last month's obs on the Space Station, I learn that the American multi-millionaire Dennis Tito who reportedly forked out \$20m to become the first space tourist, passed the US Technician exam whilst undergoing space training in Russia. I wonder if we will hear anything from him or will a Morse key be regarded as 'excess baggage'?

RSGB AFFILIATION FEE

Forgive me if I appear cynical but the Society has seemingly been very concerned about the likelihood of litigation and rising insurance costs for clubs. The result is that they have negotiated terms with an insurance group for all affiliated clubs as part of the affiliation fee. Very kind of 'em but they now rid themselves of the embarrassing reduced rate club subscriptions and load a blanket increase on them to bring club fees into line with standard individual membership charges. Hmmm.

CHANGE OF CALL

M5AKX is now recognised as M0MUZ. Murry has tried a number of times to get a response to his general calls on 20m but to-date, no joy. If the signals are weak due possibly to QRP or an indifferent antenna system, it would be more productive to listen out for a strong station, net and

call when QSO has terminated. This way at least you can confirm all is OK.

FOR SALE

DRAKE R4C with 500KHz filter and manual. £239,99, Not a bad rig this for an entrance into amateur radio. Bill seems to have a 'thing' about the Drake gear and although sans computer, made us of the facilities at his local college to dig up info on the R4 receiver modifications via Hobby Trades Services and is seeking other information on mods for the Drake R8-B. Contact on: 0141-5624571.

MINI BEAM IN OM LAND

Martin, OM1YF was somewhat involved in the erection of what appears to be a log periodic antenna at the Bratislava shore station. The lower view shows the monster finally mounted on the tower though there could be some inaccuracies since I had to 'remove' a crane jib.

OF SHOES & SHIPS & SEALING WAX

Well, it makes a change from odds'n ends and in any case, something recently put me in both a poetic mood and threw me back to my childhood, the Rev. Lewis Carol and Alice. Wasn't it Humpty Dumpty who declared any word meant nothing other than what he intended it to mean? A mis-spelling indeed from a 'G' station who must have spent his English lessons dreaming of other things. "The weatger is raining". He could have abbreviated it to WX and judging from his callsign, he must have spent at least 20 years hamming. His fist was good and he was reading at least 22wpm so why the mis-spelling? It was early morning and to encourage sleep, I had left my bed for a cigarette and a brief listen on 40m so I listened further. There followed at least three more outrageous examples of pseudo English including "Abtebbba" and "my ruf is Kenwood TS920" before I twigged. Not only did his spelling leave something to be desired (though forgivable of course) but he was using a KEYBOARD. It was the magic word "RUF" that did it. On a QWERTY keyboard, 'U' is adjacent to 'I' and 'F' to 'G'. He was a touch typist and had shifted his right hand index off the guide 'J' Listening further, he shunned at least two stations and for the simple reason that he could not read them... he was also using a Morse reader and these never were very good at resolving

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hand-sent cw.

also... sorry - I just don't see the point.

Specials from the wrong side of the pennines
Saturday the 2nd found a contest-free 40m and a couple of GB stations including GB2DAM which proved to be the Doncaster Air Museum running QRP and seemingly besieged by FISTS members. A nice signal considering it was QRP and operated by tykes!

2E0000

Roy, G4SSH, phoned Bob asking him to reserve a special number for 2E0000s Century. Before I go further, I must point out that this is one of the club stations which **does** pay subs. This station has been introduced before but just to refresh memories, the Scarbrough Group use it to demonstrate the efficacy of simple antennas, low power and the use of cw. Its main purpose is to demonstrate H/F operating techniques to local Class B and M5 members. They observe all the restrictions imposed upon novice stations except that an experienced operator is usually on the business end.

The 2E0 call is still pretty rare on the DX bands of course but the fact that such a basic setup is used carries a lesson to many with much more sophisticated stations.

40m NET

Bill, GW0SGG, proposes to set up a regular net on 40m located around 7.0265 at 1945 local. No emphasis on speed - come and go as you please.

ANOTHER FOR-SALE

Jim, G0NTR, is in the process of selling his house and is offering a TenTec C22 complete with PSU. £150 and buyer collects.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET
G4OHK. Slowly getting back to normal after double hip replacement. Another bionic man? **G0OWS**. It was a fortunate accident when heaving boxes during a house removal caused a haemorrhage necessitating medical intervention. A close up look revealed **cancer** which must have been discovered in its early stages as Jim has since been pronounced clear. **WA7NSY**. Richard is seemingly finding more anomalies than I am. He has a 'thing' about TP (we say KN) with some stations using it as two separate chars instead of as a single entity. I guess it is just that

some folks put it into print in that way rather like SK as opposed to VA and beginners who know no better forget that the chars are intended to be conjoined. SK I suppose can be read as 'Sticky Key', 'Someone's Knocking' or 'Send for a KFC'. To be honest I have only heard this once or twice and ALWAYS on the HF bands (usually from a US station). Better to ignore it mate. **G0LSH**. Is re-vamping the shack as a combination shack cum computer room allowing xyl into hitherto hallowed territory. She tells him he has not done bad on the deal - well she would say that wouldn't she Alan? **M5AGL**. Enjoying some very QRS contacts which - prior to FISTS - was not possible. Primary interest of SSTV has been pushed aside now with hundreds of CW QSOs. Nuff said on number chasing etc Bob, each to his own I guess. Hi. **G3JKY**. Yes, I missed that one about responding to a CQ call with 'K' only and since you are trying to raise ONE specific station then KN would be the answer. Otherwise, the simple 'K' as I suggested would be interpreted as being receptive to anyone's call. Ya see! I'm not always right. **G2HKU**. Ted complains not about the abysmal English weather. The monsoon like conditions prior to June left his lawn like a bog and did wonders for the antenna setup. **G3CWI**. Heck... Ric compare Keynote with the W1BB 'top band' news sheet - going back some way matey but boy - what a compliment! **G3KUL**. Doug lives in sheltered accommodation (anything with a roof could be regarded as sheltered but I know wotcha mean) so antennas are a no-no. By now he must be wearing a groove betwixt there and the local club which is where he does all his operating. Describes the local council as the original cap and muffler brigade and since they tore his modest wire out of the loft, his opinions are well justified! **M0CHL**. Tnks for the card David but what's with the ski-ing penguins? **G0ADE**. Our Bob chips in with the last word on the KN v K subject saying he never uses KN as he expects people to listen to see if it is appropriate to join in. Used to have a pair of Brown Bros paddles also Bob but they were 'gifted' to an old friend of yours (now S/K), Ted in Sale and does that bring back memories? **ON6ZJ**. Got a card from Leon which graphically describes his other hobby

- flying gliders. Always wanted to give that a try but lack courage!

CLUB STNS & AWARDS

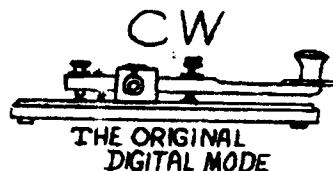
I must confess that when the idea of issuing FISTS numbers to club stations came to mind, I did not envisage circumstances when they would be claiming awards. Recently however, Bob has been somewhat dismayed to find that this is what is happening. Let me put you in the picture. When a FISTS member asks for a number for a club station to which he belongs, no subs are demanded. but the club record is flagged as mail=false (no Keynote is sent) and no costs are involved. Such stations would have no voice. They would simply be a source of three point contacts, enhancing the lot of those who are chasing awards. Bear in mind that we tend to make a loss on issuing awards and you will see that it is not a healthy situation. I appreciate that clubs would like to display awards etc at their various events but if a club station is not subscribing to the running costs then those members who do subscribe are in fact subsidising them.

There are a small number of club stations who do in fact pay subs in the normal way and one who has no direct FISTS affiliation in the shape of a sponsoring member. Bob will be happy to issue awards to these but but objects to working for 'free' for non-subscribing sources.

FINALE

Again I am of space. Am sure there will be many of you around on the bands though so look forward a few good natters since I am relieved of the job of caring for Ivy for a couple of weeks this month. 73/88, have fun and stay sober.

Geo.



KT4FD

DX KEYNOTE - Issue 7

GREETINGS

Welcome to Summer, 2001 where the bands appear to be full of the sound of bacon furiously frying. What few QSOs have been undertaken on 20m during June turned out to be almost exclusively with stations from Europe. At least we can hear a signal or two when old Sol begins to drop in the sky but conditions are such that the bottom can fall out of the band as abruptly as flicking a switch.

The thoughtfulness of a 'G'based QRP station went some way to restoring my faith in human nature when struggling with a QRO signal from Sweden on 40m. The problem was another station on 7.028 calling CQ QRP and he was not taking silence for an answer and was certainly NOT hearing (or at least acting upon) my advice that the frequency was in use. It would seem that his TX was for some reason on that QRG but he was listening on 7.030 plus. Suddenly he quit and after the QSO I was called by a QRP station who knew the identity of the QRM and had taken the trouble to telephone and ask him to QSY. He seemed almost apologetic when explaining what happened but I was a long way from being ungrateful.

MORE ON AWARDS

Was particularly tickled when Stan, K4UK, e-mailed me a copy of his 'Spoon' award directed at Chuck, M0AVW for his exploits with a mini-scooter. Coincidentally, Chuck has instituted his own award which will be issued annually to the member who present their QSLs in the best sorted manner. As a starter, he was particularly impressed with Tom, DL1CQ, whose presentation of cards was consistently faultless. Hope it encourages a few more to think about relieving Chuck of an unnecessary chore.

ABOUT THOSE BARRED CHARS

Alan, M0AXJ, is wondering why amateurs use IMI as an interrogatory symbol. He harks back to his days in the forces when this was signified BEFORE a question as INT and IMI was used

as a request for a repetition. Well I wouldn't bet my remaining teeth on it but I am sure that IMI was a jug handle long before the forces started using it in its alternative form. As far as I am aware it was employed in the same way it is now, to change the sense of a statement to a question. Dunno about the brown jobs but certainly in the RN, there were a number of odd-ball two-character entities that had to be remembered such as PT (pennant), FL (flag) and a few which were not official such as GS (get stuffed) and SB - a corruption of signal in an original unclassified code used when bunkering at sea - Suck Back. This was taken to read 'Stupid B!!!!' and was generally applied to anyone of more senior rank than a Petty Officer who issued an order which turned out to be less than intelligent. And that is about as much as I am prepared to divulge. Hi.

NEW MEMBERS

For some reason known only to great minds like Freud or Thomas Crapper, I was staring at the new members app forms last month, put 'em back in their filing box and forgot. Below is current listing from the last one reported:

7785	9A3SM	Mato	7786	GM3JIG	Ken
7787	2E0XRM	Dennis	7788	G3KEG	Cliff
7789	EA3BJE	Alex	7790	G0UBJ	Ken
7791	OM1YF	Mat	7792	G0WXM	Alan
7793	GM3UWX	Jim	7794	G0VLY	Phil
7795	9A0CW	Club	7796	G4JDC	Les
7797	G3TZA	Alan	7798	G3EGY	Jim
7799	M0BQQ	Jon			

From here we take a leap since the US gang claimed the intervening numbers:

8300	M0SDW	Steve	8301	G3CRC	Club
8302	EI6FR	Declan	8303	MW0BJS	Jim

The club station 9A0CW is the club station of Zagreb (caretaker is 9A3SM) and G3CRC is the club station of the Clacton ARS whose caretaker is David, M0CHL.

AMALGAMATING AR CLUBS

A letter recently received from the Central Lancashire AR Club refers to an article in Radcom (Apr, pp72) and indicates that several members are very keen on the idea in principle. They thought it would be a good idea to 'sound out' other clubs in the area to test the feelings of amalgamation. I feel it is hardly going to work

in our case being so widespread and with no local venue for regular meetings but the idea has great merit. Perhaps those members directly concerned with local clubs could put the concept to their members and for Lancashire in particular, direct communication with M1ACJ (sec of Central Lancs) at 42 Meadow Park, Wesham, PR4 3DN would be appreciated.

VLF QRP CW

"During my years in the double-bass section of the Scottish Symphony Orchestra, it was not always possible to concentrate on the music being rehearsed. A distraction would often be sought. Frequently the YL cellist sitting in front of me would take off her shoes to rest her feet and these shoes would be silently rescued and passed surreptitiously via sundry brass players who were always ready for a laugh, to the tympanist who, it is rumoured, sold them to 9M2 Emelder Marcos.

On one particularly trying day we were rehearsing an indescribable piece of modern music and Maestro was sorting something out with the wind section. It was time for a diversion. The principle viola at the time was my good friend Stephen, GM3XWJ, so firing up on the lowest string on my LF generator/double bass, I called CQ on a frequency of 28Hz. I chose this frequency as it was likely to cut through QRM caused by other stations such as flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, paper combs, etc. XWJ's wide band Rx set between his ears did not at first seem to receive my QRP CQ so I increased power to a modest forte and tried again.

This time success and back came a QRZ?. sent my call sign and received an S9 reply from GM3XWJ on 440Hz (concert A). We made the traditional exchange of info, name QRH and report (mine being RST 573) with some QRM. At this point I was conscious of some unusual semaphore signals from the conductor who apparently could find no reference to double bass in his score. I later heard he was contemplating a complaint to the DTI/Head of Music.

Later during an eye-ball in the bar, XWJ said that he was sorry for the T3 report explaining that my signal sounded like a wet f..... and was not very musical. The CW exchanges took a little longer than usual but this is to be expected at

VLF. Should I claim this as a cross-band contact or was it just split-frequency working?"

Item by Terry, GM3VQJ via MEGS news letter and kindly diverted from the badlands of Yorkshire by G4SSH.

EM5QRP ON THE AIR

Between 4 and 11 of May 2001 the Ukrainian QRP Club held its first Radioexpedition to the Crimean Mountains (mountain Ai-Petri, 1200m above sea level).

Members of the Crimean QRP-pedition: Igor - RK3ZK, Pavel - UR6IRL, Vladimir - UR7IRL, Victor - US1RCH, Peter - US1REO, Dmitriy - UU4JCQ, Sergei - US-I-555, Nick - UA3WX. Special call - EM5QRP. 562 QRP QSO were held with 45 countries of the world. Among them JY, 4S7, JA, N8, 9H, EA9, HL, CT, UA0.

We worked QRP in some shifts (CW, SSB, FM) on 80, 40, 30, 20 and 2m bands taking into account propagation. The most active at CW was a member of the FISTS CLUB - Victor, US1RCH.

We had some RTTY QSO on a 20m band. For this we used an old IBM Notebook, software HamComm 3.1 and a simple radiomodem. Software JVFAX 7.0 was used for receiving weather charts (7880 KHz).

The members of the expedition greatly enjoyed working on QRP bands. They also could admire the unique nature and the view of the plateau Ai-Petri. A great number of photos and a videofilm will remind us of it.

Our QRP expedition showed great possibilities of working QRP on Air. We hope new QRP expeditions, meetings with new friends.

All our correspondents will get special QSL-cards, and the most active ones - books by Igor Grigorov, RK3ZK, "Antennas for Radioamateurs".

US1REO (Pres, UR-QRP Club)

Peter also added some pictures via e-mail but unfortunately, being UU-encoded at 72 dpi they were not of good enough quality to reproduce.

CURRENCY PROBLEMS AGAIN

Combo 6/7 2001

Sorry but again I must stress that there is something in the order of £6 to £7. negotiaton charges on **Eurocheques** and **private cheques** which are drawn on non-UK banks. I am still getting enquiries about the use of bankers cards for subs but this is definitely a no-no. In view of the values involved, the bank manager even raised a smile when it was put to him - now there's a rare occurrence. Hi. Apparently Giro-cheques are still cashed at face value though there is a suggestion that they may be either phased out or subject to the same handling charges as Eurocheques in the near future.

FROM THE IN-BASKET

The learners

Having regularly helped at the Harrogate morse camps. getting candidates up to the 5 wpm standard and readying for the test, I would commend to your readers the enormous enthusiasm of these candidates. They are the radio amateurs of the future and if folks expect to find CW on the bands then these are the ones to encourage. Go out and look for them and give them a little of your time. Robert (G0WHO).

And from OZ land

Just a few words on the headline "Extreme qrs". I am the teacher of cw in my local club OZ9HBO and two days ago two of my pupils got their ticket. It is still possible here in my small country to have a 12 wpm licence and one of my bright heads passed that exam. So please give OZ2ANT Alex a hand if you hear him, om! OZ7ABM Finn had a 5 wpm exam. Please give him a hand as well! It is common in my town to use 2m to increase the reading speed and with a fine result. I have also told the young guys about Fists Club and the qrg's.

Lighthouse activity

Some information, Geo, that might interest. During the weekend 18th-19th of August, the local club OZ9HBO will be activating Bovbjerg Lighthouse, situated at the west coast of Jutland, 12 kilometers south of Thyborøn. We were on the air last year with a fine result due to our antennas 62 meters above sea level. Leif, OZ1EUO

QRL??

I'd like to put in my couple of bob's worth, 'cause I think its important to QRL? for two reasons.

1) Say for example there is a QSO going on on 20 metres between a guy in England and a guy in Malta, and the guy in England is transmitting. Due to propagation conditions you probably wouldn't hear the English guy, and would assume the frequency was available, but by calling QRL? its quite likely that the Maltese guy would hear you and be able to come back with a "yes"

2) Supposing there is a QRP QSO going on and you can't hear either of them. By calling QRL? even if the guys can't make themselves heard to you with a "yes" at least they would know you tried, and wouldn't instantly hate you when you drowned them out with a CQ. May even give them a chance to QSY before you leap on their frequency. I think it's all down to manners and courtesy. Malcolm MOBHE.

and more on Q codes

An absolute raft of letters and e-mails arrived concerning QRL with the overwhelming consensus being that it should always be used where applicable if only out of courtesy. Another item which bothers one or two members is QRZ? I remind you that we are not bound by strict operating procedures (and no bad thing either I hear some of our ex-service members mutter) and whilst QRZ is generally used in it's 'official' context (G3ZQS QRZ G1ZZZ - you are being called by G1ZZZ), a QRZ following a QSO can be taken to mean 'who is calling me?' or 'is anyone calling me?'. We have mangled the proper meaning of many of the Q codes (lets make a start on the 'Z' codes just for a giggle) simply because they are convenient (QRK rarely refers to signal strength within the amateur service but to value) and there are more similar examples than you could shake a stick at. Mind you, it would not be a good thing at all if the official meaning of the Q codes disappeared with the shore stations but if they can be conveniently twisted without straying too far from the proper meaning, no harm is done. It works the other way also. You will hear folks asking for a name with QRA? - what is the name of your vessel officially - but surely OP? or even NAME? is much more concise. I guess as CW fans, we should be a little flattered when phone stations use QTH.

PERSONALISED CAPS

Chuck, M0AVW, can now take orders for these. Shown above are the Grey and Black versions whilst Navy is also available. Callsign only or Callsign and name £7.50 Callsign and badge £9.00 Callsign (name or number) plus badge £9.50 For the UK, these prices include p&p. For Europe, add £1.00 or equivalent in US dollars. At these prices, there is a very small margin of profit which helps keep the Bureau running. For further info contact Chuck.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Rather disappointing when I get .JPG files via the e-mail in which the view is a wide one with a small image of whatever it is we are interested in. Please try to ensure a respectable resolution and remember that if you are scanning a photograph, the warts and blemishes tend to be magnified so a resolution of 600 dpi will reproduce better than the same scan at 300 whilst at 72 or even 150 dpi, there is little I can do with it even with some pretty sophisticated processing software. Given a shot of a subject in a shack environment at 300 dpi, something can usually be done with it but the same picture sent as embodied e-mail matter at 72 dpi is barely passable when viewed on the VDU and it is going to look downright clunky no matter how it is processed. Less be checking on future traffic.

HST COMPETITION

HL5AP. Cho participated in the IARU 4th. high speed telegraphy championship in Constanza as KARL team trainer. Looking forward to the next one in Minsk.

A US VIEWPOINT

George....I recently read with interest your comments on the ever slowing code speeds on the bands. I totally agree with you. It would seem, at least on this side of the pond, that we as FISTS and hams in general, are doing all we can to SUPPORT slow speed code, and allow for ops to maintain these lower speeds. Here in the U.S.A., there is no end of slow speed rag chew nets, slow speed traffic nets, and a constant re-

minder that we must slow down to accommodate the slower op who answers a call on a FISTS frequency at half speed. We are also hearing a lot of 12 WPM fists trying to send at 20 WPM. While I certainly agree that it IS a learning process, I don't agree with the stance that we must "accommodate" anyone. If the ops who want to increase their code speed would get on the air and/or start listening and copying live code, their speed would increase very rapidly indeed. Making no effort to move away from 5 WPM QSO's, slow speed nets, and computer generated practice code will result in an operator who is "stuck" at a very slow speed indeed. Perhaps more Elmering is in order as suggested, but the burden is still on the slow speed op, NOT the fellow who calls CQ and routinely operates at 20 WPM and up. W8FAX 2192

Well, I suppose it is just this kind of quandry which sparked off the discussion about the desirability of extreme QRS on valuable band space and Alan seems to have gone some way to providing a sympathetic point of view.

THE SCARBOROUGH GANG

Roy, G4SSH, and the Scarborough Special Events Group are having great fun on the bands no matter what the conditions. Reactions from O/S FISTS members to both GX0000 and 2E0000 are always one of surprise and delight with comments such as "Wow, you just made my day" or (when giving numbers 7777 and CC=1111 as 2E0000) "Gee... are you pulling my leg?", rewarding the operators with just as much fun and enjoyment. This is what amateur radio should be about."

THE QRS PARTY

Keith, M0CLO, worked wonders with the incoming logs and produced a report much sooner than I had anticipated. He seemingly assumed that he would be sending out the certificates and as a consequence no addresses accompanied the winning entries. As it happened, two of the winning class 'A' entries were FISTS so the address was no problem and the other was a German station whose address was found on the callbook

CD. The report is summarised below.

EUCW/FISTS QRS party, 22nd-28th April 2001.

In spite of a low number of logs being received this inaugural running of the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party seemed to be enjoyed by most of the participating stations. It was clear from the logs that a lot more people took part in the event than sent in logs.

The really good thing to come out from the logs was that several entries were received from people who had not entered any form of event before including the winner of the "Most Readable Morse" certificate.

The key/keyers used were many and varied from a Schurr squeeze paddle to a Swedish brass pump key and a G4ZPY key (presented as Fist of the year in 1996). This last key was used by G8NT who I believe was the oldest contestant at 91 years 8 months old and living in sheltered accommodation who finished runner up in Class A. Just goes to prove you don't need large antenna arrays to still enjoy contesting.

The power used in Class A varied from 100W to 5W so nobody needed to run a lot of power. It was also interesting to note that logs were received from 5 different EUCW clubs, but it was notable from comments made in the logs that a lot of people were expecting a better effort from the mainland European clubs. It was also commented in the logs that the input from the FISTS club was disappointing with few members getting involved.

One or two rule changes have been suggested and these will be considered in time for next year's contest.

Congratulations to all the certificate winners and especially to G4KXG for being voted "Most Readable Morse Heard" during the party. Many thanks to all whom sent in logs and hopefully we would have more participation next year.

Result List:

CLASS A

Callsign	Club	Points	Mults	Total
DL1BUG	RTC	314	52	16328 *
G8NT	FISTS	268	38	10868 *
IK2RMZ	AGCW	121	50	6050 *
G4KXG	FISTS	155	33	5115 *

G4FAI	FISTS	96	23	2208
G0GSY	FISTS	93	26	2208
F5LPY	UFT	135	15	2025
HB9CHE	FISTS	81	16	1296
M0BYN	FISTS	53	18	954
G4LHI	FISTS	43	18	774
G4NCU	FISTS	31	9	279
M0CMQ	FISTS	20	4	80
G0TBD	FISTS	7	4	28
G3VQO	FISTS	3	3	9
PA3CLQ	AGCW	3	1	3

CLASS B

HB9OU	HTC	31	11	341 *
HB9DEO	HTC	23	6	138 *

CLASS C

DJ9AO	33	8	264 *
OE8GHR	24	8	192 *

Many thanks for check logs from GW0SGG and PA3AAF.

Hopefully these results will encourage more people to enter next year's event that starts on 28th April 2002.73 Keith Farthing, M0CLO, FISTS Contest Manager.

CHANGE OF E-MAIL ADDRESS

Within the next few weeks, I shall be quitting AOL and my e-mail address will be <fist1@btinternet.com>. There are many reasons for this including the restriction by AOL of their own browser but suffice it to say I am disenchanted!

FINALE

Yours truly has been suffering extreme discomfort these past few weeks, possibly due to the high pollen count, with glued up nasal cavities, an annoying disposition to 'eyeball twitching' and some pretty fierce headaches so I hope you will forgive me for again being somewhat adrift with the Keynote. Fortuitous that I did not attend Dayton for the stay would have been a miserable one indeed.

When you folks have finished tending your lawns, chasing next doors cat off your flower beds and rubbing in the sun-block, pse switch on occasionally and seek the gang on the bands. 73/88 es stay sober. G3ZQS, Geo

DX KEYNOTE FOR AUGUST

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT
PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
CONTEST MANAGER: M0CLO
86 Coldnailhurst Ave, East Perry, CM7 5PY
E-Mail: fist1@btinternet.com
International Morse Preservation Society
Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery
Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-
703948

NETS

Sunday QRS 0900 (loc) 3.575 2E0AJS
US 0100Z on 14058
Tues: GX0IPX/P 1930 ON 3.558 (+/-)
Net Control G3HZL
DX 14/21/28.058 on the hour for 15mins
Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
UK Net Controls use GX0IPX/P

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> or <http://www.smartgroups.com/vault/fists/>

GREETINGS

Quite an eventful month thus far - activity from the museum ships, all sorts of odd-ball prefixes turning up on the most unexpected bands and at the most unexpected times. The band conditions however remained somewhat dismal which kept yours truly off the air for much of the day. Sometimes wonder if all the QRN on the bands was due to the countrywide activity of thousands of lawnmowers as the combination of sunshine, showers and fertilizer sent grass into a growth frenzy. Hi.

Hope I can say the same for other sufferers but t'would seem that either the pollen count has decreased or my immune system has given up the battle. Either way, life has returned to something akin to normality.

In between the lightning blasts some very nice contacts have been found with the gang on 40m and it was a particularly pleasant surprise to find G3SCD over here in blighty for a few weeks though t'would have been nicer to have found him from his home QTH as VK3DBD. At the

time, I was running GX5IPX and it certainly caught the lad out. No more than a few others I should point out although I would have thought that the prefix M5X together with the suffix IPX would have offered a clue or three.

Ralph, ZL2AOH, found the pressure just a little too much and was glad to hand over the reins of QSL manager to ZL2TK. There are quite a few new members now in the antipodes and although growth rate has been slower than expected, it is beginning to take off.

HERE WE GO AGAIN

The message seems to have got through to the majority of members although a few still neglect to identify themselves in correspondence - particularly with subs. Everything here revolves around **callsigns** and when I sit down to process a couple of dozen letters it is frustrating to have to stop part way through to search the database for a name, post-code or partial address to ascertain the originator of a cheque or letter.

Your callsign is unique and it for this reason that all reference here at HQ is centred upon it. I find it surprising that so many of you fail to spot the advantages of this when it comes to internet addresses but the trend these days seems to be towards using this one-off identity

APP FORMS

Since the problem over Eurocheques and Money Orders rose (the bank screws us for between £6 and £7 for each one) the bulk of overseas members have taken heed. The problem is that there are a number of you holding the original application forms and if these are sent to overseas stations, they will not be aware of the changes we have been obliged to make since the forms will still quote Eurocheques as a preferred method of payment. As far as UK stations are concerned, there is no problem since payment is made either by cheques made against a UK bank, postal-order or even fivers but if you plan to introduce stations from outside the UK, it would be appreciated if you would ask for a more recent app-form or modify the ones you hold..

THOSE BARRED SIGS

Seem to have opened a can of worms here because e-mails and letters have flooded in from members harking back to their service years. Another interesting point raised is why different countries (or perhaps continents) indicate procedure signals such as VA in a different way. The US seems to prefer SK as a description whilst the ubiquitous BT has sometimes been referred to in print as DU. At the end of the day it still sounds exactly the same so perhaps it would be better that these preferences be ignored.

Regarding Alan, M0AXJ, query and the changes from INT to IMI as request - if my memory is still functioning I remember in 1950 the RAF changed from using INT as query to IMI (previously used for REPEAT) to come in line with NATO protocols - and I think these signals were used by the USA forces at the time. There was also a change in the phonetic alphabet too as well as changing the format of calls from callsign 'v' callsign to callsign 'de' callsign - S9S v QQ5Q became S9S de QQ5Q.

As for unofficial 'Q' codes I can remember using Q4P (or perhaps QFP) indicating that the operator was in dire straits and needed an urgent 'toilet break' so hang on! and QFI meaning the NAAFI wagon has just arrived on site so hang on until I can get my char and wad. We were operating as a mobile signals unit with single operator manning so we often could not get anyone to stand in to take up the watch at such times.

Dave 2W0ALZ.

Now then Dave... I am sure I remember still using INT and V etc, with the RN in 1952 - are you sure about the year?

And from Tony, G3CWW:

*The barred IMI goes back into the mists of time and is the **correct** interrogatory signal. The barred INT was introduced with the combined Armed Services Procedure in 1943 together with some of the US phonetics. There were no odd-ball two-letter procedure signals in the Army - the Q-code was used properly and on certain top-level links, particularly high-speed (100 wpm up) via punched tape there was also a sprin-*

king of the commercial 'Z' code.

Tony despairs that all too often these days one hears the disembodied jug handle (IMI) usually preceded by an extended tune up period and followed a couple of nano seconds later by a CQ sequence. He would be happy if the use of QSD be better understood and used. Although we tend to use it in a barred form, Tony points out that KN is not thus prescribed and, in fact, the use of K N N N N is used to emphasise that NO interjection by those not involved in the QSO would be welcome.

G0LYY remembers clearly that the INT was introduced in mid 1944. Up to that time, if you wanted a QDM (homing bearing) it was QDM IMI K which was changed to INT QDM K from that time. He also points out that the phonetic alphabet at the start of the war was largely identical to that in WW1 with 'Ack, Beer, Charlie, Done Eddie' etc this being the source of the generally accepted slang of 'Pip Emma' and 'Ack Emma' for p.m. and a.m. All this was before the alleged unambiguous 24 hour clock and John justifies the word 'alleged' since while on honeymoon leave, he received a telegram telling him to arrive at Wymsoled by 0800 hours when they really meant 8:00 p.m. And how well I remember Able, Baker, Charlie, Dog, Easy, Fox and so on. Look out for anomalies in war films advises John. The term 'Roger' is taken to mean 'message received' whilst in fact, acknowledgement was a full 'Your message received and understood'. In the heat of battle, this was abbreviated to 'understood' whilst 'Roger' came in much later.

Well at least the subject has resulted in a few lamps being swung if nothing else. Hi.

We have just spent a hol. down in Cornwall, took 2 mtrs along, seemed to be more activity down there than at the home QTH, Lot's of interesting items to view during our stay, that had radio connxn, the attached piccy was taken at the Eastern Telegraph museum, and I encouraged the guy to fire up the spark transmitter, you may make out the important little bit around picture centre. (Shame about the 13 amp sockets, not really in keeping with the period HI).

CONSTRUCTION GANG

I have a memo from G3VD who is one of a group of volunteers who spend a day each week in the workshops of HMS Collingwood maintaining and frequently renovating communications and radar equipment.

The training of Naval electrical/radio officers is now being executed by Southampton University and the intake for this year has decided to initiate a project to celebrate the centenary of the Marconi cw (spark)transmission from Poldhu Cove, Cornwall to Newfoundland. All the finance is cleared and all the parties concerned are now preparing to get things going forward. Needless to say, they need a spark transmitter to make it authentic and happily, Collingwood has one in the museum which it has agreed to loan it for the exercise.

We understand that the actual site at Poldhu is owned or administered by the National Trust and since the Poldhu ARS shack is also sited there, they will doubtless be involved.

Bernard has given details of FISTS to Lt Rooney (Thunderer Sqdn) c/o Southampton University who, it is hoped, will be bringing Lt. Cdr Legg (curator) at HMS Collingwood up to speed with the aims of the club.

The museum appear to be an absolute Aladins Cave of kit ranging from the aforementioned spark generator to receivers used in the first U-Boats of WWii and this group of dedicated tinkers has been responsible for tracking down the technical information on this latter piece of kit and restoring it to its prime condition. Other equipment dates from the 30's and even one item from the 20's donated to the museum by a sympathetic elderly lady on her deathbed.

Please note that for members visiting the area, access to the museum is strictly by appointment via Lt Cdr Legg. RN (RTD), Museum Curator, HMS Collingwood, Fareham, PO14 1AS.

Mark your diaries! The actual day for the transmission from Poldhu is Dec 12, 2001 and if Bernard would kindly refresh my lamentable memory prior to that date, I will include it in an appropriate Keynote.

M0AVW AND THE KAPS

Our Chuck seems to be doing something of a roaring trade with the caps mentioned last month. Some cheques made out to FISTS have been forwarded to HQ for inclusion into the funds whilst other monies (in a more negotiable form) are used to supplement the running costs of the bureau.

IS IT THE WAY OF THE WORLD?

Whilst almost everyone I speak to about this matter is in sympathy, they all agree that it is wrong. What am I muttering about? Well let me say first off that if I personally wanted some information from a non-commercial organisation or an individual, I would not expect them to pay for the privilege of providing that information. You would not believe the number of enquiries I get for information about FISTS with **no** return postage. Yes even British stations who really should know better do it. Such expenses are not detailed in the accounts - simply appearing as 'Postal Costs' but it is costing the club. One app-form to S. America for instance, even if it is returned, would cost us £1.00. Three replies to Europe would set us back again £1.00 and if these were to East EU countries would net absolutely nothing when the applicant found out that he had to pay subs. Within the UK we fair not so badly - we get 5 for our £1.00 but that is still £1.00 which we would otherwise be spared if the person asking for the information did us the courtesy of including return postage.

No. I am not a skinflint or penny-pincher; it is just that I hate to see people doing to us what I would surely never consider doing to them. I am sure I have mentioned before that unless we keep a DX member for at least 3 years, we lose out on the deal so you can see that I am just a wee bit miffed when I pull stamps out of the box to reply to an enquiry especially if the reply is doomed to be fruitless from the beginning. OK Geo..... get off your soapbox!

AWARDS MANAGER

We have not yet finalised the arrangements but as of now, all applications for awards should be

sent here to HQ. From here, they will be processed by whatever means presents itself. Bob, G0FRL, has decided not to continue as Awards Manager. I shall not delve into the reasons for this but suffice it to say that all awards will be handled from within the States. Since their claims are greater than ours by a magnitude of at least four, shifting the load will be an advantage. .

Dennis, K6DF has agreed to process the awards and initially, I was concerned that the extra costs of shipping awards from the US would be prohibitive but the US contingent have assured me that this will not be a problem.

Hitherto, Bob has been using depleted foil to add something to the awards and this is not only a time intensive process but it is one which can result in a degree of frustrating repeats since it rarely turns out perfectly on the first attempt. Because of this, consideration was given to the awards being printed in colour but Dennis is aware of the process and is keen to make use of it. As long as everything ticks along correctly, there will be little apparent delay in processing your awards, the only observable difference being that they will arrive with a US stamp on the envelope.

Failing this arrangement, things would have got complicated. We are already shipping numbers across the pond for US Century awards and any EU member taking over from Bob would have found himself in the same situation. Since the bulk of applications emanate from the US, it makes more sense for Dennis to handle everything from his end. I am assured that we will profit rather than lose through this arrangement.

NEW MEMBERS

8304	G4YHN Ake 8305	G4JBL Cedric
8306	G3WQU Peter 8307	G4KGD Roy
8308	JH4GRV Shin 8309	G4GXL Steve
8310	M0JCT Jack 8311	M0AYF Des
8312	M0FLY Tony 8313	9A4MF Miro
8314	G0TCI Bruce 8315	GW0TAU Paul
8316	PA5BM Bert	

Pse note that Peter, G3WQU, will be operating out of Morocco but there is no indication if this is temporary or permanent.

MX5IPX

Validation for the above call has been received from the RA and some 80 members have been entered into the newly created log thus far with perhaps a few more before we get to the business. Because of its rarity value, members are invited to port the call out (/P) from within the UK.

Pse remember though that it is a banner for the club and you should be confident in the standard of your code before taking it on.

LMK preferred dates (I suggest a week of operating when you are suitably free) and provided there are no clashes, you are on. Send a copy of your logs to HQ and sufficient QSL cards will be printed indicating the operator at the time and and posted back to you for onward despatch. If a group of you wish to get together you may use it multi-operator style or share it out week to week. MX5 is as rare as rocking-horse droppings at the moment so very active sessions are almost guaranteed. The number will accompany the callsign whoever is using it and of course, for the award addicts, it is worth three points.

RSGB MYSTERY

A letter arrived at HQ on RSGB stationery advising me that 'there is now a person called the RSGB Affiliated Club Contact (RACC)' indicating that Society records show that this person is yours truly. Bombshells like happy surprises seem to come in lumps and I certainly knew nothing at all about this. I replied indicating that not only was I completely befuddled by this information but also that I had quite enough on my hands. Hi.

RADIO OMC

From Martin, OM1YF, a brief run-down of the Bratislava shore station. The call (as above) is OMC and is privately owned by Slovak Danube Navigation for communications with ships on the Danube and Slovak sea-going merchant vessels in the Mediterranean, Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. For Danube traffic they are using SSB simplex on 2645/2583KHz 0400 to 0600

hrslocal time and 6224/8294KHz 0900-0930, 1200-1400 and 1430-1500 daily whilst 6292/6440KHz, 12429/13057 and 16637/16917KHz is used in two time slots with A1A duplex step/step. The company boasts some 260 ships on the Danube and 3 se-going vessels moving mainly in the Indian ocean, Karibik and Australia.

The staff includes:

Martin	OM1YF (Chief Opr)
Milan	OM3TB
Jaro	OM1MW
Karol	OM1CF and
Jozef	OM1MW

Milan, Jaro, Karol and Jozef are classified as ships Rado Officers and he includes a detailed breakdown of traffic covering two pages detailing times and frequencies

ODDS N' ENDS

Not all that much mail this month people but we do have an interesting note from Otto, LA1IE, who says he is not as active as he used to be before he became a widower though he does check 058, 052 and 025 (FISTS, RNARS and FOC) daily and is quite active in the various RN nets besides his other interest of chasing Scottish islands.

Seems that when he attended the RNARS AGM in October, he was picked by Norman, G4SFO and stayed with him for a couple of days in Rugby. He responded to an invitation from Andre, GM3VLB, to visit Kelso and stayed there a few days to sort out his radio stuff. After the AGM, he hitched a ride to Middlesbrough with G3MXZ and G3KXV who put him on a train at Darlington back to Berwick-on-Tweed. This ticket set him back £15.00 and represented his entire travelling costs and meanwhile, he criss-crossed the UK and was treated like the King of Norway 'even though I am only a second cousin' he adds. Sounds like you had a barrel of fun Otto. I understand that a ballot box with 5,00 plus ballot papers was unearthed in Florida recently, each one in support of Ronald MacDonald.

For those of you with the FT1000MP, I have a note in FOCUS regarding the output waveform. This information has seemingly been found on the reflector by K8JP and a suggested modifica-

tion comprises the addition of a capacitor and resistor. It is mainly concerned with rise/fall times and duty cycle with a keyer set to 40wpm and seemingly reduces output band-width which effectively results in some 1.5db more power. I am left cold with the technical details presented but perhaps Joe would be kind enough to elaborate?

Talking of kit, I heard a station on 40m running the 1950's 'Mini-Mitter'. There was absolutely nothing 'mini' about this thing at all. It contained a gynormous metal clad choke, transformer, a pair of 807s and also a pair of mercury vapour rectifiers to provide the HT. Apart from the chassis, I feel they utilised the cladding from a WWII tank to construct the front panel and it could cause a hernia if you so much as looked at the brute. This was my first transmitter and the residue still occupies a space in the cellar... one of these days it could be resurrected but, I ask myself, is it worth it?

FINALE

Every time I try and catch up on the Keynote despatch something happens. This month, panic stations when Bob, G0FRL, resigned as Awards Mgr and on the very day I was supposed to be printing Keynote, I had to disinfect the computer because I had been blessed with a MTX type virus. Spent the best part of three days trying to evict the unwelcome guest because it had blocked access to MacAfee on whom I depend for immunisation. It had successfully infected over 450 files (most of 'em .DLLs and a smattering of .EXEs) so you will see that my policy of not opening any attachments unless it is clear from whence they came was justified if fruitless. If anyone gets an attachment from me without an associated text e-mail, destroy it! Look for a .SCR file titled MATRIX SCREENSAVER. The warm weather robbed me of sleep which was something of a blessing because in the early hours, a string of US members were chasing the MX5IPX call. Hi.

73/88 for now people. Have fun es stay sober

Geo

FISTS CW CLUB, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL DATE IS ON YOUR MAILING LABEL
in the format of year/month/day

Are YOU due to renew your subs??

Upcoming Events:

FISTS Fall Sprint

1700 UTC to 2100 UTC, second Saturday in October

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Hadley MI 48440

If you move, PLEASE let us know! Is there a typo on your mailing label? Tell us!
The P. O. charges sixty cents if your label is addressed incorrectly.